Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support debt forgiveness for CNMI scholars who fail to pay back the money awarded them for their college education?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

September 25, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Giant Baby
Spectators flock to an Indonesian hospital for a glimpse of the country's largest ever baby.

ASIA...Page 11

Pacquiao Tactic
Manny Pacquiao will have to resort to hit-and-run tactics to negate whatever advantages Miguel Cotto enjoys.

MAHARLIKA...Page 12

Fitial driver in 'ice' case placed under house arrest. **PAGE 2**
Jonas Barcinas is new principal of Hopwood. **PAGE 3**

Bill filed to delay federalization to 2010

Measure draws mixed reactions in the CNMI

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) on Thursday introduced a bill that delays the start of federal immigration control in the CNMI until Dec. 1, 2010, a move that has drawn mixed reactions in the CNMI.

Sablan

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, left, swears in the new officers of the Associated Students of NMC during yesterday's investiture ceremony and the first NMC Performance Report to the People. The new student leaders are, from left, president Milescelyn Rodriguez, vice president Daniel Kintol, secretary Stacey Demapan, and treasurer Min Seon Park.

Fernandez bares NMC achievements

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College marked a historic event yesterday, following the conduct of the first performance report of its chief executive, Dr. Carmen Fernandez, who cited the progress and achievements of the institution that led to the reaffirmation of its accreditation.

Before hundreds of guests and spectators, Fernandez highlighted the significant changes in the college's performance and lauded the contribution of numerous individuals and sectors in achieving success.

Yesterday's ceremony was welcomed

See FERNANDEZ on Page 4

Up to 8 Uighurs are headed from Gitmo to Palau

By MARK SHERMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration says at least 6, and as many as 8, Chinese Muslims held at Guantanamo Bay will soon leave their island prison for freedom on another island, the tiny Pacific nation of Palau.

Word of the upcoming transfer, planned for sometime after October 1, comes in a letter, released Thursday, from Solicitor General Elena Kagan to the Supreme

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Palau creates world's first shark sanctuary

By JOHN HEILPRIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The tiny Pacific nation of Palau is creating the world's first shark sanctuary, a biological hotspot to protect great hammerheads, leopard sharks, oceanic whitetip sharks and more than 130 other species fighting extinction in the Pacific Ocean.

But with only one boat to patrol 240,000 square miles (621,600 square kilometers) of Palau's newly protected waters—including

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This undated photo provided by the Micronesian Shark Foundation shows sharks from an allegedly illegal Taiwanese fishing vessel busted in Palau on Aug. 5, 2009.
AP

Local

Fitial driver in 'ice' case placed under house arrest

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Pete Reyes, the bodyguard and driver of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial who allegedly used the governor's vehicle to purchase and sell methamphetamine or "ice," will be on house arrest due to a serious heart condition.

Lawyer Robert Torres, counsel for Reyes, informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI during a hearing late Thursday afternoon that the defendant is waiting for a medical referral for his heart condition.

Describing Reyes' condition as "serious," Torres asked the court to have his client placed under house arrest rather than detention.

Designated U.S. District Court for the NMI judge David Wiseman approved the request.

Wiseman said Reyes, 39, will be restricted to his home at all times except for medical emergencies.

The judge imposed a $10,000 unsecured bond that should be co-signed by Reyes' wife and a future third-party custodian.

Reyes surrendered to federal agents Thursday afternoon after the U.S. government filed a complaint charging him with one count of possession of a controlled substance within 1,000 feet of a playground with intent to distribute.

Reyes pleaded not guilty.

In court documents, the defendant listed the Department of Public Safety as his employer.

According to Drug Enforcement Administration special agent Daniel G. Holcomb, a "confidential source" had told DEA in December 2008 about Reyes being a regular "ice" user and involved in the distribution of "ice."

The source alleged that Reyes regularly used Fitial's vehicle, a blue Nissan Pathfinder, to buy and distribute "ice."

Holcomb said that on March 16, 2009, Reyes allegedly offered to sell "ice" to the source. Reyes then drove Fitial's car to the parking lot of Bank of Guam in Garapan and received $250 from the source and promised to give the "ice" later.

An hour later, Reyes allegedly handed over 0.12 grams of "ice" to the source inside the source's car, which was parked at the side of the Governor's Office's building on Capital Hill.

Rep. Babauta's son charged with immigration fraud

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. government has indicted the son of Rep. Oscar M. Babauta for allegedly defrauding a Chinese national by promising to get his daughter from Fujian, China, to Saipan in exchange for money.

Jesse Mafnas Babauta, 38, is charged with one count of mail fraud, one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud, two counts of fraud and misuse of immigration documents, and conspiracy to commit offenses.

During yesterday's hearing, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David Wiseman said the court will appoint a lawyer to represent Babauta.

Wiseman set the arraignment for Monday at 10am. He ordered the release of the defendant, with some conditions.

Under current immigration rules, persons from the Fujian province cannot lawfully enter the CNMI without advance written permission from the CNMI Office of the Attorney General.

Babauta

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kirk Schuler stated in the indictment that from Aug. 25, 2008, and continuing to Oct. 11, 2008, Babauta devised a scheme to defraud Zhi Yuan Li of his money and property by means of false and fraudulent representations and promises.

Li is a Chinese who is residing on Saipan.

Schuler said that Babauta falsely represented to Li that he could arrange for Li's daughter's lawful entry into the CNMI.

The prosecutor said that Babauta falsely represented that his father, Rep. Oscar Babauta, has the authority to and would help Li get his daughter from Fujian Province into the CNMI.

Schuler said the defendant provided fraudulent immigration documents dated Sept. 5, 2008, to Li that falsely represented his daughter could lawfully enter the CNMI.

The prosecutor said Babauta received money from Li in exchange for the fraudulent documents.

The defendant falsely represented to Li that the money was payment for official government expenses and fees, Schuler said.

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Jonas Barcinas is new principal of Hopwood

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Public School System has named Jonas Barcinas as the new principal of Hopwood Junior High School starting next week, a position held by Christine Masga for three years.

Barcinas, the current principal of Dandan Elementary School, will be replaced by his vice principal, Martha Kintol, at DES.

Over a thousand students gathered at the Hopwood grounds yesterday to offer a special farewell to their principal.

Masga has been with the Hopwood Junior High School for over eight years. She started as a student teacher and served under various capacities such as reading and writing teacher and language arts mentor, until being appointed school principal in December 2006.

Masga confirmed that she will transfer to the PSS central office under the Office of Curriculum and Instruction.

"I will help in the program assessment, particularly the AmeriCorp program," Masga said yesterday.

Although she has yet to sign the contract for the new position, she said she is expected to start work next week.

In yesterday's surprise party at Hopwood, an emotional Masga was showered with gifts, flowers, letters, mwars, and leis by students who also offered poems and special dance and song presentations.

Barcinas

Also seen at yesterday's occasion was former Hopwood principal and ex-Education Commissioner David Borja, whom Masga described as among the best principals Hopwood ever had.

Masga's husband and children also received commendation from students, teachers, and staff during the ceremony.

Hopwood teachers described Masga as a dynamic and great leader who prioritizes the welfare of students and staff.

Masga, for her part, said that she will forever cherish the memories and experiences she gained from her students and colleagues at Hopwood.

Teachers also cited Hopwood's many accomplishments under Masga's leadership. They said her presence will be missed at the campus.

"I really see the little kids now are becoming more matured, more interested in school, and I can say that the future generation is very motivated to become better citizens," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Fund trustees junk 'ridiculous' offer from private lawyer

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Retirement Fund's board of trustees turned down a proposal from a private lawyer who wants to become part of the agency's negotiating panel in its discussion with the administration on how to settle the government's $231 million arrears.

Timothy Lord, according to the board of trustees, had threatened to sue the Fund if he is not be allowed to participate in the discussion with the Fitial administration.

Lord wants to represent at the negotiating table his two "clients" whom he refused to identify at this time, the Fund said.

Saipan Tribune learned that Lord communicated his proposal to the Fund on Aug. 24.

Fund legal counsel Viola Alepuyo said that Lord was advised that he can attend the panel's meetings with the administration because it is open to the public.

"He said if the offer is not be considered by the board, he has no option but to apply for an injunction relief at the U.S. federal court," Alepuyo said.

Saipan Tribune learned that Lord wants a $400 per hour payment for his service every time he attends the negotiation meeting, excluding administrative expenses to be incurred such as airfare. Lord is believed to be based off-island.

Trustee Sixto Igisomar described the offer as "ridiculous" and urged the board to disapprove it.

"If we will allow this…it's ridiculous," he told the board during the deliberation.

Acting board chair Pedro Dela Cruz said he was also taken aback upon learning of the proposal.

Lord's proposal was declined via a unanimous vote.

The CNMI Superior Court had ruled in June that the CNMI government owes the Fund $231 million in unpaid employer contributions.

Since then, the negotiating teams of the Fund and the administration have had only one meeting, during which both parties presented their views on how to resolve the issue.

ARTS EXHIBIT
A traditional Carolinian canoe stands proud among arts and crafts on display in the ongoing 2009 Cultural Heritage and Arts Pacifica Exhibit at the NMI Gallery for Arts and Culture on Capital Hill Thursday afternoon. Public and private schools are invited to hold field trips to the exhibit, which will end on Oct. 23. The exhibit is open Mondays to Fridays, 8am to 5pm, and on Saturdays, from 8am to 12pm.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Administration 'surprised' at charge vs Fitial's driver

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial may no longer ask for a replacement for his former driver Pete Reyes, who was charged with selling methamphetamine or "ice," acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday.

"We're surprised and disappointed that someone close to the governor would be charged for this kind of thing. But we will let justice take its course," Inos said in an interview.

According to court documents, Reyes would use the governor's vehicle to buy and sell "ice," sometimes right after dropping off the governor at his office building.

In one instance, Reyes sold the drug at the parking lot itself of the Governor's Office on Capital Hill.

Inos said that effective Thursday afternoon, Reyes, an employee of the Department of Public Safety, was no longer detailed at the Office of the Governor.

He said Reyes had been assigned to the governor since 2007.

On Thursday afternoon, Reyes surrendered to federal agents and was taken to the U.S. District Court for the NMI for a bail hearing.

The U.S. government charged Reyes with one count of possession of a controlled substance within 1,000 feet of a playground with intent to distribute.

The court imposed a $10,000 unsecured bond for Reyes' temporary release. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

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UP TO

From Page 1

Court. Kagan also confirmed that Palau has agreed to accept all but one of the 13 Chinese Muslims, or Uighurs, who remain at Guantanamo.

The administration is trying to fend off Supreme Court review of the Uighurs' case.

Six Uighur detainees have agreed to the transfer and attempts to persuade two others are continuing, Kagan wrote.

"The U.S. government has every reason to believe that at least six of the petitioners shortly will be resettled in Palau, although it is impossible to be certain until they actually board the plane," Kagan said.

The exact date of departure is classified, she added.

In a separate letter to the court, Sabin Willett, a lawyer representing the Uighurs, said one of the 13, Arkin Mahmud, has not been offered a chance to resettle in Palau. "No nation has offered him refuge," Willett said.

The men have been held by the U.S. since their capture in Afghanistan and Pakistan in 2001. The Pentagon determined last year they were not "enemy combatants" but they have been in legal limbo ever since. China regards the Uighurs, Turkic Muslims from far western China, as terrorist suspects and wants them returned.

But Uighur activists claim the detainees face persecution or death if they are returned there, and U.S. officials have struggled to find a country to take them in.

Palau offered them a home in June.

Four other Uighur detainees are now in Bermuda.

PALAU

From Page 1

its exclusive economic zone, or EEZ, that extends 200 miles (320 kilometers) from its coastline - enforcement of the new measure could be almost like swimming against the tide.

Palau's president, who is to announce the news to the United Nations General Assembly on Friday, acknowledges the difficulty of patrolling ocean waters nearly the size of Texas or France with a single boat. But he hopes others will respect Palauan territorial waters - and that the shark haven inspires more such conservation efforts globally.

"Palau will declare its territorial waters and extended economic zone to be the first officially recognized sanctuary for sharks," Palauan President Johnson Toribiong told the Associated Press in an interview Thursday.

Shark fishing has grown rapidly since the mid-1980s, driven by a rising demand - mainly in China - for shark fin soup, a highly prized symbol of wealth. Because of their long life spans and low fertility rates, sharks are vulnerable to overfishing.

Within its EEZ, a nation may regulate fisheries and scientific research and develop other economic efforts. The U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization estimates more than half of highly migratory sharks are overexploited or depleted.

Toribiong said a recent flyover by Australian aircraft showed more than 70 vessels fishing Palau's waters, many of them illegally.

"We'll do the very best we can, given our resources," he said. "The purpose of this is to call attention to the world to the killing of sharks for commercial purposes, including to get the fins to make shark fin soups, and then they throw the bodies in the water."

Tourists go to Palau for its spectacular diving in the tropical waters, dramatic coral and rich marine life. The remote Pacific nation recently made global headlines when it agreed to President Barack Obama's request to take a group of Uighurs - Turkic Muslims from China's far western Xinjiang region - as part of plans to close the Guantanamo Bay detention center.

Palau is one of the world's smallest countries, with some 20,000 people scattered over 190-square mile (490-square kilometer) archipelago of lush tropical landscapes in the Western Pacific.

Its shark sanctuary will shelter more than 135 Western Pacific species of sharks and rays considered endangered or vulnerable, or for which there is not enough data to determine how the species is faring.

"Palau has basically raised the bar for the rest of the world for shark conservation," said Matt Rand, director for global shark conservation for Washington-based Pew Environment Group, an advocacy organization.

Elsewhere, Europe is trying to crack down on shark fishing in its waters.

In February, the European Commission proposed its first-ever shark conservation rules for European waters. EU countries account for a third of shark meat exports globally, and shark steaks are increasingly served in restaurants, replacing pricier swordfish steaks, and shark products are also finding their way into lotions and leather sports shoes.

Toribiong said he also will call for a global moratorium on "shark finning" - the practice of hacking off shark fins and throwing the body back into the sea - and an end to unregulated and destructive bottom trawling on the high seas.

Palau is among 20 seafaring nations that already have voluntary agreed to end bottom trawling, which involves fishing boats that drag giant nets along the sea floor.

Enormously effective at catching fish, the nets from bottom trawling also wipe out almost everything in their path, smash coral and stir clouds of sediment that smother sea life, marine experts say.

The U.N. has called bottom trawling a danger to unique and unexplored ecological systems and said slightly more than half the underwater mountain and coral ecosystems in the world can be found beyond the protection of national boundaries.

FERNANDEZ

From Page 1

by Board of Regents chair Charles V. Cepeda, who dedicated the historic celebration to the late Dr. Rita A. Inos, a former regent and education commissioner who recently passed away.

Yesterday's event also showcased the swearing in of the four newly elected leaders of the Associated Students of NMC and a post-celebration for the institution's accreditation success.

The "2009 Institutional Effectiveness Performance Report" is a 34-page document that details the college's progress in meeting the strategic goals of the PROA strategic plan for 2008 through 2012.

'Full support for NMC'

Acting Gov. Eloy Inos, who was among yesterday's guests of honor, vowed to continue supporting the college in its efforts to provide quality education to the community.

Although he admitted not having read yet the entire 40-plus pages of the performance report, Inos said the fact that NMC successfully obtained reaffirmation is a testament to the good things being done at the college.

"The fact that they survived the issues affecting accreditation and having been reaffirmed is enough testimony of the good things they did for NMC," he told *Saipan Tribune*, describing the success as a major accomplishment not only for the college but for the CNMI as a whole.

He expressed confidence in the capability of Fernandez to lead the institution.

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios said that House members are very proud of the college's achievements in the past years.

"They did what needs to be done… and we're very proud. They went through a lot of challenges…and they deserve to be commended," he said.

Like Inos, Palacios is confident that Fernandez will continue to show good leadership at the only public postsecondary institution on island.

Other lawmakers present in yesterday's event included Rep. Justo Quitugua, Senate President Pete Reyes, Sen. Jude Hofschneider, and Rep. Ralph Torres.

BILL

From Page 1

Federalization is set to begin on Nov. 28, 2009.

Sablan defended his new stance on federalization, saying he only did so because the Department of Homeland Security is not ready to control CNMI borders with only months to go before implementation date.

In a statement yesterday, Sablan said he made the decision to seek a one-year delay in federalization only after much deliberation.

"Even the Department of Homeland Security itself has now admitted in a written reply to Congress that the department will not be fully operational in the Marianas until 2011. That's not good enough. The people of the Northern Mariana Islands—and the people of all the United States—deserve and expect all U.S. borders to be fully operational all the time," he said.

Acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos said in an interview yesterday the Fitial administration welcomes Sablan's introduction of the bill.

"We support it [bill]. Our opposition to the implementation [on Nov. 28] has always been consistent," he said. "We welcome it and we ask for the support of other members of the U.S. Congress."

Inos, who is celebrating his birthday today, said the one-year delay will also give DHS time to reconsider its rule to exclude China and Russia from the visa waiver program.

"It will also be a breathing period for us. I think one year may be adequate. If what we've been asking for will not be granted, we have to find something to fill the void left by the two markets. I doubt that we will be okay without it, unless we find something to fill the gap," he said in an interview right after the Northern Marianas College's first "Performance Report to the People" on campus.

'Ready or not?'

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), in a separate interview at the NMC event, said that, with only about two months before Nov. 28, it is "very unlikely" that the U.S. Congress will act on Sablan's bill.

"Let's be realistic about it," he said.

He said Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano herself said that DHS is prepared to stand borders on Nov. 28, while CNMI leaders, including Sablan and the Fitial administration, have been saying otherwise.

"This is creating confusion in the community. Who is right? DHS says they're ready. The CNMI side says DHS is not ready. But the question is, what are the chances of this bill passing Congress?" said Palacios, adding that he will review Sablan's bill.

On Monday, Napolitano met with Sablan and Delegate Madeleine Bordallo (D-GU) on federalization issues. In that meeting, Napolitano said DHS would be ready for the Nov. 28 implementation of the law that puts the CNMI under federal control.

But Sablan told Napolitano that he still believes DHS is not ready. He reiterated his position yesterday.

"Homeland Security has not finalized arrangements for space at the ports of entry that it must control. No construction of facilities at the ports has begun. None of the sophisticated communications and data entry equipment and supporting infrastructure needed have been installed. Not a single Customs and Border Patrol employee is in place in the Marianas to manage the start-up, which is scheduled to occur in just 65 days," he said.

Rene Reyes, president of the Coalition of United Workers-CNMI, said that foreign workers' groups are "strongly against" any further delay in federalization.

"This will preempt the economic recovery of the CNMI and its people. We want to reiterate that federal agencies are very ready to kick in on Nov. 28," he said.

'Will reduce scams'

Sablan said he believes that federal control of CNMI borders "will reduce the scams and abuses that have been a hallmark of local immigration control."

He earlier asked the U.S. Attorney's Office to investigate immigration and investment scams involving at least two groups of investors—Chinese and Korean—promising foreigners either a U.S. investor status or "green card" by investing at least $100,000 in the CNMI.

Sablan said the scams are an embarrassment to the CNMI and hurt the effort of delaying federalization.

The Fitial administration said the Office of the Attorney General will review the allegations "and take appropriate actions if violations of CNMI laws are substantiated."

Although he believes it will benefit the CNMI to be part of the U.S. immigration system, "the simple truth is that [DHS], which has had almost a year and a half to prepare, is not ready to implement U.S. Public Law 110-229 on Nov. 28.

"I know that for many people in Washington and in the Commonwealth, who have been pushing for U.S. control of immigration, my bill will seem like backsliding. And I certainly would have preferred not to have to take this action. But I also have to acknowledge the reality of the situation," he added.

DHS to report to Congress

The four-page bill not only seeks a one-year delay, but also requires DHS to report to Congress every 30 days on actions being taken to be fully prepared to man the borders on Dec. 1, 2010.

"I want to make clear that my bill is not delay for the sake of delay. And I certainly don't want to find us back in this same predicament a year from now with an impending startup date and an agency that isn't prepared," Sablan said.

The bill requires DHS to provide Congress with detailed budgets for the next two years to show how the transition will be paid for. DHS will also be required to explain what equipment, software, and personnel needs it has and how it plans to get that infrastructure in place.

It also addresses the issue of the visa waiver program that currently allows Russian and Chinese tourists to easily enter the CNMI, or without a U.S. visa.

"Although the CNMI visa waiver program would continue as is for another year under my bill, I also want Homeland Security to report to Congress on what will happen after the new start date of December 2010. If there are additional security measures needed to allow Russians and Chinese to enter, what are those measures? DHS has never told us. And, if Russian and Chinese are still excluded from a visa waiver program after December 2010, then I want DHS to explain how these countries can be included at a later date," he said.

The delegate also wants DHS to explain why the system that the CNMI has now, which requires a bond from tourist agencies sending Russians and Chinese to the CNMI and which has operated almost completely trouble-free, can't be the system that DHS uses to handle these tourists.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who met with Napolitano in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday, said DHS' "possible solution for discussion" with the CNMI and Guam on the joint visa waiver program may be ready by this week or early next week.

The governor, who is on his way back to Saipan, said in a statement that he is optimistic the CNMI will be granted reasonable access to Russian and Chinese tourists under the visa waiver program following his meeting with Napolitano.

Guam awarded $2.7M to complete sports complex

Anthony Babauta, Agat native and newly confirmed assistant secretary of insular affairs for the U.S. Department of the Interior, met with Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho, Lt. Gov. Michael W. Cruz, M.D., and their Cabinet members yesterday. After sharing his appreciation for both the government's and island community's support, Babauta announced that $2.7 million of Guam's 2010 Compact impact grant funding will go to complete a sports recreation complex in the North.

"This exciting announcement will help complete a more than 40-year-old vision to provide our Northern community and the entire island with a sports complex we can be proud of," said Camacho. "Today we had an opportunity to congratulate Mr. Babauta, who has made our island community proud. We appreciate DOI's favorable decision regarding this request, and we look forward to more of these announcements in the future."

Babauta was joined by other DOI representatives including Nikolao Pula, director of the Office of Insular Affairs; Michael Block, staff assistant to the president at the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs; Angela Williams, Guam desk officer; Steve Sander, congressional liaison; and Jennifer Fang, special assistant to Babauta.

Camacho had sent a letter to Pula, then the acting deputy assistant secretary of the Office of Insular Affairs, on Aug. 10, 2009, requesting to use $2.7 million of the 2010 Compact impact funds to augment $2.6 million in U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant.

In his letter,

Camacho indicated the funding would be used as follows: $1 million for moveable equipment for a proposed recreation pool; $900,000 to address the shortfall in the last two pool construction bids; and $800,000 for an exercise trail, outdoor basketball and tennis courts, lighting, etc.

Joe Duenas, director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, and Dededo Mayor Melissa Savares were present during Babauta's announcement.

"We believe keeping our kids busy after school and keeping the community healthy will lessen the strain on health care in the future," said Duenas.

The complex will consist of existing gymnasium and soccer facilities and four baseball diamonds, which are under construction.

Babauta flew back to Guam last night for the first time since his appointment at the U.S. Department of the Interior.

"There is nothing like coming home," Babauta said at the opening of the meeting. "There is nothing like feeling the warmth and the love of your fellow Chamorros."

In his capacity, Babauta will coordinate federal policy for Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands and American Samoa with other executive branch agencies. He is also responsible for administering and overseeing federal assistance provided to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Anthony Babauta, assistant secretary of insular affairs for the U.S. Department of the Interior, signs a grant award for $2.7 million in compact impact funds to go toward the completion of a Northern sports complex.

Ayuda Network to hold stakeholders forum

Ayuda Network Inc. has been awarded a three-year federal grant to establish a Basic Center Program that would provide temporary emergency shelter to runaway and homeless youth in the CNMI.

Ayuda Network Inc., in partnership with the Division of Youth Services, Community and Cultural Affairs, and Lil' Darlings Daycare and Respite Care, will work together in providing CNMI youth and their families with a comprehensive scope of social services.

The overall goals of this project are to:

■ Provide temporary, safe, and appropriate emergency shelter and care to runaway and homeless youth

■ Provide support services to assist youth and their families in conflicts and crisis

■ Bring the youth back to their families and provide encouragement to the family to solve their problems through counseling and other services

CONTACT INFO
Ayuda Network Inc:
(670) 322-4769

■ Reinforce and encourage stable family relationships and living conditions for youth

■ Foster the youth and their family to become independent, self-sufficient, contributing members of society.

Ayuda, Network, with assistance from Sanctuary Inc. of Guam and the Runaway and Homeless Youth Technical Assistance Center, University of Oklahoma, will be facilitating a CNMI Stakeholders Forum on Runaway and Homeless Youth on Monday, Sept. 28, 2009, from 8am to 5pm, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

This forum will focus on the state of affairs of youth issues in the CNMI with perspectives from government agencies, non-profit agencies and youth representatives from Saipan, Rota and Tinian.

For additional inquiries, contact Diana Camacho at the Ayuda Network Inc at (670) 322-4769. ***(PR)***

RUSSIAN VISITORS MVA

Eighteen Russian travel agents from Moscow and St. Petersburg enjoy dinner at Mariana Resort & Spa on Saipan on Monday, Sept. 21, as part of their familiarization tour this week of the tropical Northern Mariana Islands. In their quest to discover the unique charm of each of the three main islands, they also visited Tinian and Rota later in the week.

Rota's Jalma Manglona gets teacher scholarship award

"When I was in the 5th grade, I found great joy in reading a book to my reading buddy and continued reading to others through the 8th grade. It was not until then that I knew for sure I wanted to become a teacher. I got a chance to mentor younger children on subjects like teen pregnancy, peer pressure, and drugs and alcohol abuse. It felt great talking to a group of students knowing that they were attaining important and useful knowledge from me."

Manglona

Thus began Jalma Manglona's journey to becoming a teacher.

With the assistance of a federal Pell Grant and a CNMI scholarship, Manglona is full time student at Guam Community College and plans to attend the University of Guam at the same time, so that she may graduate sooner with an associate of science degree and begin her teaching career in early childhood education. She would like to become a preschool or kindergarten teacher on her home island Rota, where she graduated from Rota High School.

While attending Guam Community College, Manglona is also an active volunteer for several community efforts, such as Coastal Cleanup; food and clothing drives; and AmeriCorps Sanctuary Incorporated events, which focus on mentoring, childcare, assisting group with youth and adult management, tobacco cessation, and drug and alcohol abuse.

She applied for and was awarded an educational scholarship from Pacific Resources for Education and Learning at this year's Pacific Educational Conference in Guam. Each year, PREL awards scholarship to U.S.-affiliated Pacific island teachers or teacher candidates who are in the process of completing an accredited teacher preparation program.

Manglona said, "I want to pass on my passion for teaching to my future students. Only good can come from those who love to teach and love to learn."

PREL is an independent, non-profit 501 (c) (3) corporation that serves the educational community in the U.S.-affiliates Pacific, the continental United States, and countries throughout the world. ***(PREL)***

NMI cashing in on Japan Silver Week

The Northern Mariana Islands has been cashing in on the first-ever "Silver Week" holiday in Japan.

The new series of national holidays provides a five-day respite that began Sept. 18. After being buffeted most of the year by global travel declines, Northern Marianas tourism is getting a boost this week from its primary market.

Asiana Airlines scheduled three special flights from Narita for the period, operating B777 aircraft with a 300-seat capacity. The first flight on Sept. 19, Saturday, arrived full, with additional flights following on Sept. 21, Monday, and Sept. 23, Wednesday.

"The timing this year of Respect for the Aged Day and the Autumn Equinox has provided a fortuitous five-day holiday," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio. "Thanks to the continued partnership of Asiana Airlines, Delta, and Continental in serving the Northern Marianas, we are able to capitalize on this bonus Silver Week. We appreciate their continued commitment to our islands."

Japan, which makes up 55 percent of arrivals so far this year, posted an 11-percent increase in August to 19,537 visitors. The upswing is a turnaround from four months of double digit declines. ***(MVA)***

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission/Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold its ***Special*** meeting on **Wednesday, September 30, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.** at the **NMI Retirement Fund Conference Room, Saipan.**

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  A. Call to Order
  B. Roll Call
  C. Adoption of Agenda
  D. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting:
    1. June 4, 2009
    2. July 1, 2009
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. REPORTS
  A. Reports of the Committees
    1. Finance & Investement Committee
    2. Operations & Personnel Committee
    3. Policies, Programs & Legislative Review Committee
    4. GH&L and WCC Committee
IV. LEGAL MATTERS
  A. Report of the Legal Counsels
    1. Report of the Board Counsel
      a. Lawsuit
        i) Report of the Post Judgment Negotiation Panel
V. OLD BUSINESS
  1. Board Resolution - Cease of Refunds (BR09-003)
  2. Budgets
    a) FY 2009 Revised
    b) FY 2010
VI. NEW BUSINESS
  1. Collection Attorney
  2. NMIRF Legal Counsel JVA
  3. Proposed Amendments to the Board By-Laws
  4. CNMI FY 2010 Budget
  5. Election of Officers
  6. Aetna Brokerage Proposal
  7. Investment Consulting Services
  8. Administrator's Contract
  9. MHL - Bank Pacific
VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VIII. MISCELLANEOUS
  A. Announcements
  B. Next Meeting
  C. Adjournment

/s/ PEDRO Q. DELA CRUZ
ACTING CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIX, Issue No. 231

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Balancing act

We don't expect too much in the way of results from the gathering of Group of 20 leaders that begins Thursday in Pittsburgh. Any assembly of leaders from North America, Europe, China, Japan and Brazil—as well as sundry other nations and international organizations—would have a hard time ordering dinner, much less fixing the world economy, which is the G-20's purpose.

And yet it would be equally mistaken to dismiss this meeting, and this group, as just another multilateral gabfest. The last two G-20 meetings, held amid economic crisis in November and April, led to relatively well-coordinated, short-term anti-recession policies in developed and emerging economies. They also quadrupled the International Monetary Fund's resources for battling economic collapse in Eastern Europe and other stricken regions. Today, though the crisis may be easing, the G-20 remains the best available forum for tackling its global repercussions and for discussing, if not actually deciding, long-term strategies.

As conference host, President Obama has chosen to emphasize the global imbalances in trade and investment, which, even if they did not cause the current crisis, certainly complicate the task of ending it. His interest in a "framework for sustainable and balanced growth" is rooted in reality: For many years, Germany, Japan and China have grown by producing more than they consume and by exporting their goods to the United States, which has chronically consumed more than it produces. Oil-exporting nations have had a similar unbalanced relationship with the United States. The result is exporters' accumulation of dollar reserves and their investment in the United States—subject to occasional bubbles and busts, an especially damaging example of which we have just experienced. You could say that the recession, which has spurred a major increase in U.S. household savings, was nature's way of smoothing out these imbalances—albeit at tremendous financial and human cost.

U.S. consumers will need years to recover from the impact—and may never again drive global growth as they have in the recent past. It is therefore in both this country's interest and that of its trading partners to adjust their growth models. The United States must save a bit more and become less dependent on imports; Germany, Japan and China must consume a bit more and reduce their export dependence. As Mr. Obama told CNN on Sunday: "We can't go back to the era where the Chinese or the Germans or other countries just are selling everything to us, we're taking out a bunch of credit card debt or home equity loans, but we're not selling anything to them."

And so Mr. Obama is wisely spending some political capital on asking the G-20 to commit to such adjustments in Pittsburgh. Obviously, even a strongly worded agreement wouldn't be enforceable, and some export-dependent countries, including China and Germany, balk even at strong rhetoric. A sudden shift in global growth strategies would do more harm than good, even if it were feasible. But it would be useful to establish a system for monitoring imbalances, perhaps overseen by the IMF, to nudge countries gradually to change course. For Washington, of course, the key change is to set the government on a path to fiscal viability, lest China and other dollar-accumulators begin to demand higher interest rates. So far, Mr. Obama has been short on specific plans in this regard. If this week's effort is meant to show greater seriousness, then it is doubly welcome.

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America by Rails Part 7: Middle America

Travel notes, live and on virtual time (a social commentary)

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

The recent joke I heard among Amtrak's clientele goes: "Bill Clinton lied but no one died. Bush lied and a lot of people died. Obama lied and grandma died." On either side of the aisle, it is noxiously funny, notoriously so. But that's not how the state of Middle America strikes me. In fact, I find it at once to be in the throes of being serious and funny!

The Metra light rail that connects the Loop to Chicago's suburbs is instructive. The section from Union Station to Naperville invariably showed stops with racks of bicycles for commuters. This is duplicated in other lines radiating from the city center to the suburbs. Watching the suburban communities with manicured lawns and skateboarding kids returning from school gave one the sense of an updated postcard of a Norman Rockwell painting, with a little touch of "small is beautiful" ecology.

Sadly, with the exodus into the suburbs in the '60s and '70s came along deeply ingrained cultural virtues and values from days of yore. Rush Limbaugh's suggestion that we return to the segregated buses stem from the frustration particularly of white America who did not make a successful escape to suburbia. The perceived arrogance and uncouthness of the newcomer and the melanin-favored stranger remains a threat to the security mindset of New England's descendants.

Meanwhile, a semi-circle rapid transit system is being contemplated with Chicago as its core, with spokes heading to St. Louis, Madison, Minneapolis, Milwaukee-Duluth, lassoing the urban and rural realities of Middle America. This is in contrast to the previous century's public and private commitment to the Interstate Highway system that favored the automobile and the freight truck as the primary mode of transport, creating cities like L. A. where neighbors were strangers. The fossil fuel crisis, along with motor vehicles that bent more toward fashion rather than fuel efficiency, makes the rail no longer just a public option, but as the only viable and accessible option in the near term.

Amtrak's *Southwest Chief,* a ride through the heart of the West, travels from the Windy City to Missouri, Kansas, New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona and Southern California. I got off in Kansas City where there once were stockyards of cattle driven from Texas and Oklahoma to the processing plants of Chicago. Of course, the raising of Angus beef has change radically through the years, so much so that hardly can one see range cattle ranching anymore. The waves of cornfields and soya beans that blanket the mid-West terrain result in feed mills that raise penned bovine, swine, and poultry in staggering quantities. Sadly, in our attempt to produce volume at least cost, we might aggravate the nation's general health with unregulated use of chemicals to control diseases and enhance marketing potentials.

One look at the skyline of Kansas City also indicates a shift in value of human effort from the resource utilization-production process to the distribution system-financial structure end. We favor and pay wages to the bean counter more than the bean planter! Statistics now show that 3 percent of the U.S. population is engaged in agriculture, 7 percent in manufacturing, and the rest in financial and regulatory services. We now value and spend more on the pleasures of head-trip over gut-and-heart satisfaction.

As a Social Studies teacher, one of the ways I taught the difference between Athens and Sparta of ancient Greece in my class was to trace the effect of environment on their cultural evolution. The Athenians who were preceded by the seafaring Minoans of Crete, and the Spartans who descended from the mountain forts of the Mycenaean's of Peloponnesus, gave two distinct and competing faces to Greek civilization.

Coastal people engaged in commerce and trade welcome and invite foreign interests and intercultural relations. Curiosity for the novel and venturesome assault into the untried and unknown were pedagogical features. On the other hand, the defensive mountain forts were wary of strangers until they prove themselves trustworthy. Sparta's preoccupation with stability promoted disciplines of security and certainty. The fluidity of the coast compared and contrasted with the strict accountability of the inland.

Obviously, such overarching generalization is rough on the edges though there is validity at the core. We might recall that the *tao tao tasi* of the sea learned to navigate through storms, while the *tao tao tano* of the hills latched on to the safety of the harbor. The nonchalance of the former on formalities and proprieties is often decried by the uptight and single-minded latter.

Middle America appropriated the ways of Sparta more than that of Athens, of the Pentagon more than that of the diplomacy of State. In current American uncivil discourse, the voice of the right damns and blames, while that of the left, nerve-wracking. The higher decibel for the moment emanates from the right, but both extremes never gave much comfort to the middle.

A shift is, however, evident even in Amtraks' *Southwest Chief*

See AMERICA on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

Training the CNMI's most valuable asset

As one who has lived on and came to love Saipan I find myself repeatedly pondering the same question: Why doesn't the Saipan government create and develop a trade school? One where locals are trained as electricians, carpenters, HVAC and or regular AC repairmen/women, phlebotomists, X-ray techs, dental assistants, you get the idea.

I realize there is a substantial amount of money involved, but surprisingly the federal government has always been fairly supportive of such ventures. In the case of a smaller community such as Saipan, perhaps a rotating curriculum would be a suitable idea, teach each trade for a limited period and then turn to another needed field by importing a teacher, say once every five years for the required time.

The result could bring professional skills needed by the island community to the locals that need further training to fill the positions, thus alleviating the need for importing foreign workers, which seems to cause resentment once they come in. Heavy equipment operation is taught typically in a one-year course, diesel mechanics as well. Marketing of invaluable need in a tourist-based economy is really just a two-year specialization.

Once a group of trained tradespersons has been developed, they could become the teachers of tomorrow, and doors could be opened. Carpenters could begin producing doors and windows there, pre-fab homes by newer standards could not only improve living standards but create jobs in their factories, reducing the need for importing carpenters and giving locals good paying jobs with a market for their skills.

I say gear yourselves to be a nation that trains your own to fulfill your own needs rather than continuing to import so many foreign workers, which is becoming an overpopulation imposition on your island. To train surveyors and construction management personnel is really not that impossible a task; skilled tradesmen in construction really only takes a year or so to get beginners to proficient levels to employ as skilled workers.

I never understood why Saipan didn't have a fish cannery there. With the realization of the magnitude of health benefits from fish, you could be distributing fish around the world to those nowhere near as fortunate as yourselves in the availability of fantastic fish from wonderfully clean Pacific waters. A properly developed fish cannery would be a real moneymaker, whether run by the government or by private industry. Not to mention a smaller idea of producing real stuffed and mounted trophy fish.

Do you have any idea of what real stuffed and mounted gamefish such as dolphin and marlin sell for around here? The price to have them mounted here has gotten so high that people aren't even doing it anymore, they are paying to have theirs replicated in plastic and to me that is pitiful. If I look up on the wall and see a plastic fish, I see a plastic fish, which I really had nothing to do with. But if I can look up on the wall with four of my buddies standing there and I can point to a fish that I fought for two hours and 53 minutes to get in the boat, then that brings back the memory of the fight, the burn of the blisters on my hands. That brings back my past to the present and gives me a great extension of the thrill I had that day or night. With your availability of such game fish, you could create jobs for fishermen to go out and catch them and have a market to sell them in whole form, not for eating but to be mounted and sold as wall hangings. I doubt you could keep up with the demand for them once the word got out that they could buy authentic mounted fish rather than future landfill plastic.

Through small business development such as this, your island could be a example of self-sufficiency for other islands to emulate and furthermore your trade school could well become a financial boon to the economy when you find surrounding islands sending their youth to your school to acquire needed skills.

I managed a small business on Saipan and worked with young to middle aged locals and found them every bit as sharp and intelligent as their American counterparts in the mainland. You have your most valuable asset right there under your eyes, your youth. Give them the opportunity to become productive skilled members of society and your island will reap the rewards. A string of new production facilities could easily emerge, and students may very well elect to stay on Saipan to further their education rather than endure the horrid winter of a school in Minnesota or the dreary weather of Seattle, not to mention the inhumane heat of some of our western states.

Let's face it, your weather is something we on the mainland can only dream of. As I am preparing to go to my neighbor's home for our ritual Sunday afternoon NFL game day gathering, I am reminded of the pleasure I once had sitting around in the shade in your tropical paradise, knowing today I will be sitting around in a 93 degree miserable heat. And, by the way, the only shade comes by way of an aluminum carport. I sorely miss the beauty and comfort of your beautiful island. I can't imagine were I a kid finishing high school there that I would opt to go far away to the mainland if I had an opportunity to be trained for a future right there. Perhaps some will still crave the excitement of the malls and availability of such great things as traffic jams, pollution, and fast food joints to wreak havoc on your arteries, the chance to have your car stolen, not to find it down the side of the road after being taken for a joy ride but to be never seen again 'cause it went to a chop shop and became weight in a scrap metal plant, the gang violence, the ever growing drug problems. Yeah, you think you have it there but you just can't imagine what we have here.

Sure, this is my country and I love her, but she is not without faults,

As one who has lived on and came to love Saipan I find myself repeatedly pondering the same question: Why doesn't the Saipan government create and develop a trade school? One where locals are trained as electricians, carpenters, HVAC and or regular AC repairmen/women, phlebotomists, X-ray techs, dental assistants, you get the idea.

and we have hundreds of skilled people vying for each job. With the closure of so many businesses here, we are left with literally millions of people working far below their skill level simply to keep bread on the table. I know an attorney who is driving a cab, a CPA working in a clothing store as a salesperson, the list goes on and on.

Take stock now of what skills and trades are going to be needed today and in the future and create a school system that provides for the local residents to become trained to become gainfully employed, not at minimum wage but at a real living wage that allows them to have a bright future of home ownership, and to drive a decent car and to provide health insurance for their family and to save for retirement. You cannot get a break for your government if you continue to heap more and more burden on it to provide for the medical and dental and retirement needs for such a large part of its citizenry. No man nor women is going to feel good inside unless they are able to provide a quality of life for their family that they can take pride in. Certainly we all have learned to get by on what we have and settle for a little less in this to get a little of that, but the closer we get to attaining our dreams the happier we are as individuals. A happier person is typically a more pleasant one to be around.

Just imagine, as if by magic, all of a sudden, everyone of the locals on Saipan were earning say a minimum of $38,000 per year and had good medical and dental insurance coverage. That isn't a very big income by today's standards. Not at all. It comes out to less than 20 bucks an hour. If you mow a lawn around here it is a bare minimum charge, and you better not have a big yard or a lot of stuff like gardens to slow them down or the price goes up, and you better believe in reality it is only going to take the kid about 20 to 30 minutes of mowing to be at your front door with his hand out.

There has to come a point in time where you all get together and develop a system that dedicates itself to providing a future for your youth to become successful right at home, to develop your nation to a point where you can provide all that is needed to support yourselves and perhaps to help smaller less fortunate islands to develop themselves in your example. At that point you will have a much better bargaining position with the U.S. government.

Being a part of the strongest, most popular nation in the world, with the most freedom of all societies should not be looked upon as a bad thing, and you should not feel like you are in a horrible position. You should embrace it as your forefathers had the wisdom to do, but you *must* learn to be knowledgeable in her workings so as to be able to benefit from the opportunities it offers and not to succumb to the pitfalls it possesses.

No, we are *not* a perfect nation and I will be the first to admit that. But as one who has lived around the world, in the Mideast, the Orient, the Pacific and traveled throughout much more, I can honestly say I do believe we have lives with the most freedom and are the most welcoming of any I have seen elsewhere. Perhaps this is why so many millions continue to fight to obtain U.S. citizenship.

I found on Saipan some of the most wonderful people I have ever met—kind, helpful, friendly, and generous to a fault. I miss her and her people every day. And if it were possible to get my stepdaughter and her husband to relocate to Saipan with the grandchildren, my wife would be willing to start packing, because she too loves Saipan.

You have been blessed with a magnificent homeland. Develop her to the point where your youth would not dream of going anywhere else. After all, why would they if there were no need to do so? They go to get an education elsewhere because without a college degree on Saipan they know they will be limited to a much lower paying career than is needed to attain success there. Your need for a skilled trade center to develop both entry level skilled tradespersons and entry level management should be balanced and refined to fulfill the needs for your beautiful island, and should specialize to fit your people and those of your neighboring islands, similar to the concept behind the community colleges throughout America. Some are two-year colleges. I would strongly suggest you go for the development of a four-year community college with a bachelors program available as well as the traditional two-year programs that are perfect for many needs but cannot provide the much needed trained workforce for upper level management and such.

The key to success in any community is in its ability to be self-sufficient. If Saipan were to be cut off from all other influence and left to thrive on its own, it would not cease to exist, it would not dry up and blow away, it would simply change. It would have to alter its lifestyle to adapt to what it has to work with. You have a wonderful people to work with that are more than capable of being developed to carry forth your wonderful traditions and culture. I only hope you will find a way to allow them to do so in a fashion that will enable them to do it with their heads held high and to be beaming with pride while doing so. Get together and make her the shining example for all island countries to long to be like by helping its people to become totally self-sufficient to the point where she is not only able to hold her own but to show others the way to independence through self-sufficiency. I close for now and send each and everyone of you my fondest and most sincere good wishes.

Bill Smith
Tampa, Florida

Clarification

Contrary to your news article published on Sept. 25, 2009, KSPN 2 News did not allege that Xanadu Club Inc. was involved in an immigration scam. What KSPN 2 News did was interview their chief operating officer who said he was not aware of the issue and that they had no involvement.

Bob Coldeen
News Director, KSPN 2

AMERICA

From Page 6

ride to the Pacific coast. The clientele is not as rambunctious or as in-your-face as those fast-paced customers I run into in airports and higher-end diners. The human pace in the train contrasts with the technological pace of the impersonal jetliner. The diner and the café do not have confined limitations of the Airbus that necessitates absolute control of stewards on aisles and on the food.

Such seems to apply to the sedate and stately mid-America compared to the glitter of the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. Middle America is loosening at the seams, it seems. The rediscovery of the rail is, perhaps, driving the harried city dweller back to the ground, to nature's space and at human pace. In the process, Middle America might yet discover its heart, and definitely, not in the shouting match of ungentlemanly debates but more on the gaiety of the soccer-baseball-football tailgate parties; that "creaming the enemy" is not intended to be literal but hurled as a graphic metaphor to induce youthful motivity.

There is security in stability, and that stability in security is desired in Kansas is without question. My 76-year-old host relies on order and predictability. His word is his bond, and his reputation brooks no disgrace. But change is rapidly invading his doorstep. Old dependable political structures are crumbling and the stability of church and school is shaking at the foundations.

Young Walker, on the other hand, ignores granny as he intensely balances himself on the skateboard. He coasts down the hill and on the sidewalk of the busy thoroughfare. He is learning to maneuver through new challenges. He will live. Middle America might just be coming home to its own, and it is looking more human, from this my observation seat aboard the *Southwest Chief* to Kansas City.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

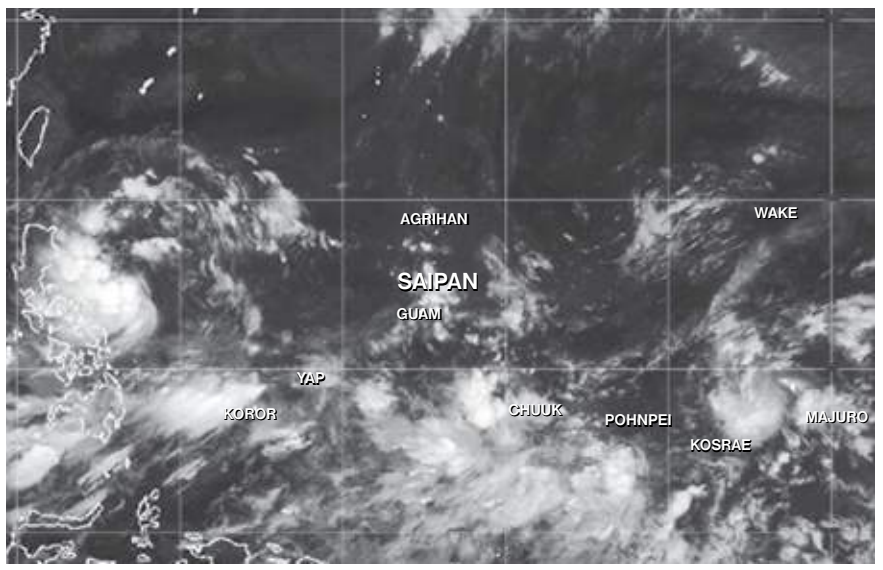
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲84	▼77
Palau	Rain	▲86	▼77
Yap	Thundershowers	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲88	▼76
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼77
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲87	▼79
Majuro	Rain	▲82	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲64	▼51
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲81	▼61
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲91	▼82
Honolulu	Showers	▲84	▼77
London	Partly Sunny	▲72	▼50
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲96	▼64
Manila	Rain	▲84	▼76
Melbourne	Showers	▲56	▼42
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼79
New York	Partly Sunny	▲67	▼60
Osaka	Sunny	▲79	▼65
Paris	Sunny	▲67	▼53
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲75	▼66
Rome	Sunny	▲79	▼61
Salem	Sunny	▲78	▼45
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲82	▼56
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲77	▼59
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲76	▼69
Washington, DC	Showers	▲68	▼63

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends east-southeastward from the northern Philippines through a circulation northwest of Koror near 14N130E and through another circulation near Pohnpei at 7N155E to near Majuro at 6N171E then turns southward to end at EQ174E. Trade-wind convergence north of the monsoon trough is combining with upper-level divergence to create scattered showers southwest of Iwo To island between 17N and 22N from 130E to 138E and north of Majuro between 10N and 13N from 170E to 180. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring along and near the monsoon trough axis just north of Yap within 65 miles of a line from 13N134E to 9N142E. Similar conditions are also seen over Chuuk and Pohnpei between 7N and 12N from 147E to 160E and east of Kosrae but southwest of Kwajalein between 5N and 10N from 164E to 168E. Converging west winds south of the monsoon trough are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over a large area across Micronesia. This area is over Koror but south of Yap and Chuuk within 130 miles of a line from 8N130E to 3N146E to 5N154E and south of Pohnpei and Kosrae or south of a line from 5N154E to 5N170E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

7:11 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
3:12 PM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
8:02 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
11:58 PM Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06 AM	6:10 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:10 PM
Monday	6:06 AM	6:09 PM
Tuesday	6:07 AM	6:08 PM
Wednesday	6:07 AM	6:07 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:37 AM	
Sunday	1:24 PM	12:00 AM
Monday	2:08 PM	12:52 AM
Tuesday	2:48 PM	1:42 AM
Wednesday	3:26 PM	2:32 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:50am	12:25pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
C09603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 5, 6
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1, 3, 4, 6

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 (last DAILY flight leaves SPN Sep 26)

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:30pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:15am	3:50am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:10am	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:20am	11:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:35pm	1:40am+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
NW100	8:40pm	1:20am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 effective Oct 1

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7 (last DAILY flight leaves NGO Sep 26)

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	4, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:50pm	2:30pm+1	3, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	4, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio

Sunday		
	9am	Sunday school
	10am	Regular worship
	6pm	worship
Wednesday		
	7pm	worship

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer

	7am-9am	English service
	7am-9am	Sunday school
	10am-12noon	English service, Koblerville
Wednesday	7pm-9pm	Prayer meeting
Saturday	7pm-9pm	Tagalog service

Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

SEPT. 26, 2000

FY 2001 budget faces new delay

The FY 2001 budget faces yet another delay as the Senate does not anticipate to approve it in time for the start of the new fiscal year on Oct. 1, according to the chair of the Fiscal Affairs Committee, Sen. Edward U. Maratita. But he said senators will press for a bicameral conference committee with the House of Representatives to hammer out a compromise on the spending proposal. If it pushes through, this will be the second time in over four months that both houses are going to lock horns on the budget—a situation that has come to mark review of the government's fiscal spending every year.

Australian carrier eyes Sydney-Saipan flight

An Australia-based airline company has started concrete efforts to secure a permit from the United States Department of Transportation that will allow the carrier to deploy direct flights between Sydney and Saipan. Board Chair Roman S. Palacios disclosed Oceania Air Incorporated has been in constant communication with the Commonwealth Ports Authority since early this year, when the airline company expressed intentions to fly between Sydney and Saipan. Mr. Palacios said Oceania Air is also planning to launch direct cargo service between Saipan and Australia, adding that company president Rex Banks has informed CPA that the carrier just recently acquired two 727-200 aircraft.

SEPT. 26 2001

Hotels take painful cuts

At least four major hotels on Saipan have admitted to have temporarily closed certain portions of their facility, in efforts to defray operational costs amid skyrocketing room vacancy rate. This, as some hotel operators in the CNMI disclosed that they have already applied for reduced manpower hours before the Department of Labor and Immigration, in addition to tighter. The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands has predicted occupancy rates to reach rock bottom due to the air travel scare brought about by the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington DC. To keep the industry afloat, HANMI has immediately made an impact assessment to determine the kinds of assistance it may be able to get from the CNMI government.

Vaccine shortage grips public hospital

The local public hospital is one among many US health care providers affected by the entire nation's overwhelming demand for tetanus and pneumococcal disease vaccines, according to the Department of Public Health. The Commonwealth Health Center has reportedly ran out of pneumococcal disease shots and is now close to disposing its limited stock of tetanus vaccines, due to insufficient supply obtained directly from the mainland-based manufacturer. "They did not supply us with enough of these," said DPH Medical Director Dr. Richard Brostrom.

SEPT. 26 2002

October is month for youths

Lt. Governor Diego T. Benavente has declared October as the First CNMI Youth Month in recognition of young people's positive contribution to the community. Benavente led the proclamation signing yesterday at the Youth Services Building on Capitol Hill, designating October 2002 as the First Annual CNMI Youth Month. "We recognize the youth's endeavors for equal representation in the government, private sector and in the community. The Governor's Office stands ready to assist all youths, their programs, their aspirations and needs," Benavente said. Benavente said he hopes to see more unity among the Commonwealth's youths. Youth Congress Speaker Luis John Castro said the month-long celebration will bring awareness about the youth association CNMI Youth Alliance, which is composed of different community-based youth organizations and government youth-serving agencies.

Preparedness demo awes students

It was about 8:45am yesterday when students and teachers at the Mt. Carmel School in Chalan Kanoa heard the fire alarm. This prompted them to rush from the buildings to the school grounds. Using their respective escape routes, all converged at the baseball field within the school's premises, where emergency response teams were already present, together with their vehicles and sophisticated equipment. It was only at this point when they realized that it was simply a fire drill, with the emergency response teams ready to present demonstrations in celebration of Disaster Preparedness Week. "They were [pretty flabbergasted]," said Emergency Management Office deputy director Mark S. Pangelinan.

Business

G-20 nears banker-pay limits

PITTSBURGH (AP)—As police clashed with protesters in the streets, world leaders on Thursday closed ranks on pay limits for bankers whose risky behavior contributed to the global financial meltdown. With economies on the mend, a summit mood of cautious optimism replaced last year's fear and uncertainty.

Geithner

In a historic shift recognizing the rising influence of China, Brazil and India, the leaders of the world's top 20 wealthy and developing nations decided that the G-20 will take over the role of preeminent council on global economic cooperation, a function that for more than three decades had been performed by a smaller club of leading industrial countries known as the G-8.

The G-8 will continue to meet on matters of common importance such as national security. President Barack Obama initiated the move, which was to be announced Friday.

A mile from the convention center where talks will be held on Friday, police fired canisters of pepper spray and smoke at marchers protesting the summit after the protesters responded to calls to disperse by rolling trash bins and throwing rocks. The clashes began after hundreds of protesters, many advocating against capitalism, tried to march from an outlying neighborhood toward the convention center.

Officials said 17 to 19 protesters were arrested, and there were no reports of injuries.

The biggest clashes between police and demonstrators occurred at just about the time President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama arrived. The protesters banged on drums and chanted "Ain't no power like the power of the people, 'cause the power of the people don't stop."

Protests notwithstanding, the atmosphere is a lot more relaxed than at the fear-driven sessions in Washington last November and in London in April. Still, the global recovery remains fragile, with many big financial institutions under strain.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Ford to build new assembly plant in China

DETROIT (AP)—Ford Motor Co. said Thursday it will invest $490 million to build an assembly plant in China to produce the next-generation Focus compact car, which it plans to sell globally. The Dearborn, Mich.-based automaker confirmed speculation that it will ramp up its production capacity in the country in an effort to grab a bigger slice of the burgeoning auto market there and throughout the Asia Pacific regions. The plant is being built in conjunction with Mazda Motor Corp. and Changan Automotive Co. under a joint venture—Changan Ford Mazda Automobile—in Chongqing, China, Ford said in a written statement. Slated for full completion by 2012, the plant would be Ford's second in Chongqing and third in China.

Home sales fall after 4 months of increases

WASHINGTON (AP)—Home resales dipped unexpectedly last month, falling 2.7 percent from a month earlier, the National Association of Realtors said Thursday, reversing steady monthly gains since April. Most economists, however, called the drop temporary and said they expected sales to strengthen later this fall. Compared with a year ago, home sales are up 3.4 percent, and the inventory of unsold homes has been whittled down to an 8.5 month supply at the current sales pace. That's the lowest level in more than two years.

US Bank also plans to ease overdraft penalties

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—U.S. Bank on Thursday became the latest financial institution to back off on the penalties customers face for overdrafting their accounts. The bank's Minneapolis-based parent, U.S. Bancorp, said it will change checking account overdraft policies effective in the first quarter of next year. Several other major U.S. banks have made similar announcements this week, including Bank of America Corp., JP-Morgan Chase & Co. and Wells Fargo & Co. U.S. Bank will eliminate overdraft fees when a customer's account is overdrawn by less than $10, regardless of the number of overdrafts that may have occurred.

State labor officials: Extend benefits for jobless

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. (AP)—Labor commissioners from 18 states urged the U.S. Senate on Thursday to act immediately to extend unemployment benefits for 300,000 people who will exhaust theirs in another week. The group urged the Senate to follow the House's lead and agree to give the jobless in states with unemployment rates topping 8.5 percent an additional 13 weeks of benefits. The immediate effect would be to keep help flowing to 300,000 of the 400,000 people whose benefits would stop this month. Through the end of the year, it would protect more than 1 million people.

Nation

Seniors' hopes, fears at center of health debate

WASHINGTON (AP)—For the moment, the health care fight is all about older folks.

Democrats agonized Thursday over how to soothe worried seniors but decided one idea was too risky because it could antagonize the powerful drug industry whose support is critically needed for President Barack Obama's broader overhaul.

The Senate Finance Committee defeated a Democratic amendment that would have gradually closed the coverage gap in the Medicare drug benefit at the expense of drug makers. Nonetheless, another proposal to shield seniors in Medicare private insurance plans from benefit cuts remained alive.

Thanks to Medicare, virtually all seniors have reliable insurance coverage—and most are happy with it. But with Democrats planning to finance an overhaul by cutting $500 billion from Medicare and Medicaid, many seniors are worried their benefits will be devalued. Republicans have seized on the issue, forcing Democrats to scramble.

In its third day of deliberations, the committee voted 13-10 to reject an amendment by Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., that required drug makers to rebate $106 billion over 10 years to the government for medications used by low-income Medicare beneficiaries.

Three Democrats, Bob Menendez of New Jersey, Tom Carper of Delaware and Chairman Max Baucus of Montana, joined Republicans in voting against the proposal. Menendez and Carper warned that the amendment could undermine support for Obama's push to cover the uninsured.

The drug industry signed on early to Obama's goal, pledging $80 billion in savings over 10 years, including a 50 percent discount for seniors who fall into the "doughnut hole" coverage gap. Squeezing the drug companies for even more proved to be too threatening to the fragile political coalition Obama is trying to hold together.

Menendez told senators that Nelson's amendment "may very well undermine the essence of this agreement" and "put us in a position that makes it very difficult to move forward."

Pharmaceutical companies are major employers in the home states of Menendez and Carper. The White House lobbied against the amendment, senators said, underscoring the industry's clout.

Carper said after the vote he had received no direct warning from the drug companies that they would abandon the deal if the amendment passed. "I know I would," he added. "I'd say, 'Take a hike.' "

Meanwhile, another Nelson amendment would preserve extra benefits such as eyeglasses and dental care for many seniors currently enrolled in Medicare private insurance plans. The private plans now get a bonus that Democrats want to cut.

AP

The Senate Finance Committee's ranking Republican Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, right, makes a point on an amendment as committee chairman Sen. Max. Baucus, D-Mont. listen, Thursday, Sept. 24, 2009, on Capitol Hill in Washington as the committee continued their markup on health care legislation.

Feds: Suspect hit beauty stores for bomb supplies

NEW YORK (AP)—An Afghan immigrant who received explosives training from al-Qaida went from one beauty supply store to another, buying up large quantities of hydrogen peroxide and nail-polish remover, in a chilling plot to build bombs for attacks on U.S. soil, authorities charged Thursday.

Najibullah Zazi, a 24-year-old shuttle driver at the Denver airport, was indicted in New York on charges of conspiracy to use weapons of mass destruction. Investigators found bomb-making instructions on his computer's hard drive and said Zazi used a hotel room in Colorado to try to cook up explosives a few weeks ago before a trip to New York.

Zazi

The extent of Zazi's ties to al-Qaida was unclear, but if the allegations prove true, this could be the first operating al-Qaida cell to be uncovered inside the U.S. since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. Over the past few days, talk of the possible plot set off the most intense flurry of national terrorism warnings since the aftermath of 9/11.

Prosecutors said they have yet to establish exactly when and where the Zazi attacks were supposed to take place. But Attorney General Eric Holder said in Washington, "We believe any imminent threat arising from this case has been disrupted."

A law enforcement official told The Associated Press on Thursday that Zazi had associates in New York who were in on the plot.

Zazi was arrested in Denver last weekend and was charged along with his father and a New York City imam with lying to investigators. Authorities said in the past few days that they feared Zazi and others might have been planning to detonate homemade bombs on New York trains, and warnings went out to transit systems, stadiums and hotels nationwide.

Explosives built with hydrogen peroxide killed 52 people four years ago in the London transit system. They are easy to conceal and detonate, and last week's warnings asked authorities to be on the lookout for them.

A law enforcement official said Thursday that authorities had been so worried about Zazi—and that his Sept. 10 trip to New York City coincided with a visit by President Barack Obama—that they considered arresting him as soon as he reached the city. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation continues.

AP Impact: School drinking water contains toxins

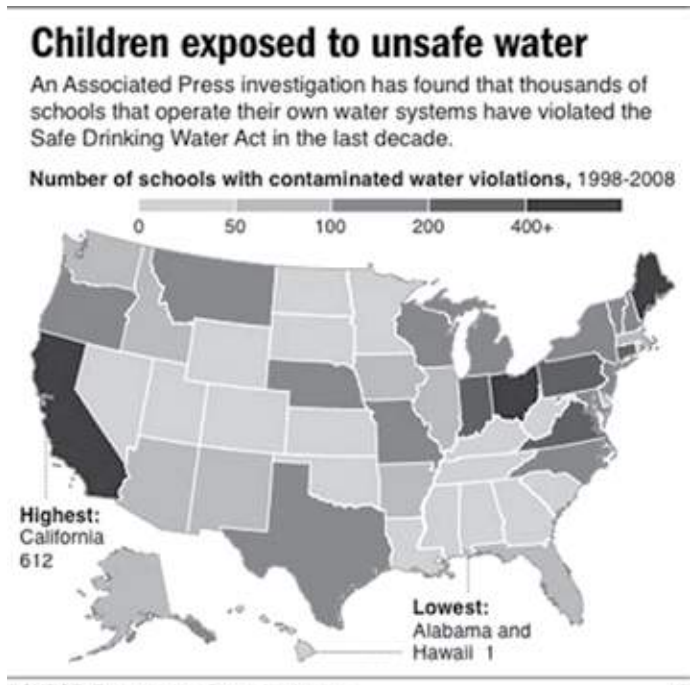
CUTLER, Calif. (AP)—Over the last decade, the drinking water at thousands of schools across the country has been found to contain unsafe levels of lead, pesticides and dozens of other toxins.

An Associated Press investigation found that contaminants have surfaced at public and private schools in all 50 states—in small towns and inner cities alike.

But the problem has gone largely unmonitored by the federal government, even as the number of water safety violations has multiplied.

"It's an outrage," said Marc Edwards, an engineer at Virginia Tech who has been honored for his work on water quality. "If a landlord doesn't tell a tenant about lead paint in an apartment, he can go to jail. But we have no system to make people follow the rules to keep school children safe?"

The contamination is most apparent at schools with wells, which represent 8 to 11 percent of the nation's schools. Roughly one of every five schools with its own water supply violated the Safe Drinking Water Act in the past decade, according to data from the Environmental Protection Agency analyzed by the AP.



Graphic shows number of U.S. schools with water contamination violations by state, 1998-2008; includes a chart of states with highest violations.

Justice Ginsburg hospitalized after feeling faint

WASHINGTON (AP)—Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was hospitalized Thursday after becoming ill in her office at the court.

A statement from the court said the 76-year-old justice was taken to Washington Hospital Center at 7:45 p.m. EDT as a precaution.

Earlier in the day, Ginsburg had received an iron sucrose infusion to treat an iron deficiency that had been discovered in July, the statement said.

About an hour later, she "developed lightheadedness and fatigue," the statement said. She was found to have a slightly low blood pressure, which the court said can occur after the type of treatment she received.

Although an examination found her to be in stable health, she was given fluids and taken to the hospital as a precaution, the court said.

The July evaluation found "that she was in completely normal health with the exception of a low red blood cell count caused by deficiency of iron. Intravenous iron therapy was administered in a standard fashion," the court statement said.

Ginsburg underwent surgery for pancreatic cancer in February but returned to work quickly.

ACROSS THE NATION

Kennedy loyalist tapped as Senate replacement

BOSTON (AP)—Paul G. Kirk Jr. served Edward M. Kennedy as an aide, rooted beside him at Harvard-Yale football games and is the executor of his will. Now, as Kennedy's replacement in the Senate, he is charged with trying to complete his late friend's legacy by passing health care reform. Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick tapped the former chairman of the Democratic National Committee on Thursday to hold Kennedy's seat until a special election Jan. 19. Kirk, 71, said he would not run himself. The announcement came after the Democratic-dominated Legislature changed the state's Senate succession law to restore the governor's power to appoint an interim replacement. Republicans went to court in a last-ditch effort to stop Kirk from being sworn in.

Area where census worker died has troubled history

BIG CREEK, Ky. (AP)—A census worker found hanged from a tree with the word "fed" scrawled on his chest met his end in a corner of Appalachia with an abundance of meth labs and marijuana fields—and a reputation for mistrusting government that dates back to the days of moonshiners and "revenuers." But the investigation has yet to determine whether the death of the 51-year-old part-time schoolteacher represents real anti-government sentiment. At this point, police cannot say whether Bill Sparkman's death was a homicide, an accident or even a suicide. "We are not downplaying the significance of his position with the U.S. Census bureau," said Capt. Lisa Rudzinski, commander of the Kentucky State Police post in London. "We can assure the public we are looking at every possible aspect of Mr. Sparkman's death."

Men accused of unrelated bomb plots in Ill., Texas

CHICAGO (AP)—A man who idolized American born Taliban soldier John Walker Lindh and a Jordanian national who frequented extremist Web sites are charged in unrelated cases after attempting to detonate what they thought were bombs outside an Illinois courthouse and a Texas skyscraper, federal officials said. Federal officials said Thursday that the cases are not connected to each other or the major terrorism investigation under way in Colorado and New York. Michael C. Finton, 29, who also went by the name Talib Islam, was arrested Wednesday in Springfield, Ill., after federal officials said he attempted to set off explosives in a van outside a federal courthouse in the Illinois capital.

Asia

Officials: Suspected US drone kills 4 in Pakistan

MIR ALI, Pakistan (AP)—A suspected U.S. missile strike killed four people in northwestern Pakistan late Thursday, intelligence officials said—the latest in a spate of attacks close to the Afghan border that have squeezed al-Qaida and the Taliban.

Such strikes have killed high-ranking militant commanders, including Pakistani Taliban chief Baitullah Mehsud, but have also killed civilians and drawn protest from Pakistani leaders.

Two intelligence officials said the strike took place near the town of Mir Ali in North Waziristan tribal region close to the Afghan border. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to reporters.

Despite Pakistani protests, Washington has shown no sign of abandoning the attacks. Many analysts believe Pakistani security agencies quietly provide intelligence for the strikes.

The border region provides Islamist militants with a safe haven from which they can stage attacks on foreign forces in Afghanistan. The mountainous, lawless area is also a breeding ground for the insurgents who launch near-daily attacks on Pakistan's U.S.-backed government and security forces.

Earlier Thursday, militants ambushed a convoy of prominent anti-Taliban tribal elders in the northwest, spraying their cars with gunfire and killing nine people, police said.

The members of the anti-Taliban citizens' group were traveling from the Machikhel area to meet security officials in Bannu district when their three-vehicle convoy was attacked by insurgents, police officer Mohammad Ghani Khan said.

Giant baby draws spectators to Indonesian hospital

KISARAN, Indonesia (AP)—Spectators flocked to an Indonesian hospital Friday for a glimpse of the country's largest ever recorded baby—a 19.2-pound (8.7 kilogram) boy born by cesarean section to a diabetic mother.

AP

A three-day-old baby boy, weighing 8.7-kilograms (19.2-pounds) left, lays next to a standard size newborn baby at a hospital in Kisaran, North Sumatra, Indonesia, Thursday, Sept. 24, 2009.

The delivery of Akbar Risuddin, or Risuddin the Great in Arabic, took 40 minutes and the operation was complicated because of his unusual weight and size. The mother and child were both in good condition, Dr. Binsar Sitanggang said Friday.

Crowds hoping to get a peek of the extraordinary Indonesian boy, who measured nearly 24 inches (62 centimeters) when he was born Monday, gathered at the Abdul Manan hospital in the town of Kisaran, in the strictly Islamic province of North Sumatra.

"He is greedy and has a strong appetite, nursing almost nonstop," Dr. Sitanggang said.

Risuddin's extreme weight was the result of excessive glucose from his mother during pregnancy, the doctor said.

Taiwan High Court continues Chen's detention

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan's High Court decided Thursday that former President Chen Shui-bian should remain in detention because he could flee if released pending his appeal of his conviction on corruption charges.

Chen has been detained in a Taipei jail since late 2008, and was sentenced to life in prison by the Taipei District Court earlier this month after being found guilty of embezzling $3.15 million during his 2000-2008 presidency from a special presidential fund, receiving bribes worth at least $9 million, and laundering some of the money through Swiss bank accounts.

Earlier this week, he was indicted on new charges that he pocketed US$330,000 from foreign affairs funds for personal use.

The High Court decided to keep Chen in detention for a further three months after a hearing Thursday, spokesman Wen Yao-yuan said.

After reviewing the case documents, "the court reckoned that he is still hiding huge amount of assets overseas ... and he is likely to flee (Taiwan) if free," Wen said. "So the court has decided to continue his detention."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Small window for any Afghan runoff, official warns

KABUL (AP)—An election official warned Thursday that Afghanistan has a narrow two-week window in October to hold any presidential runoff before winter snows arrive—a somber reminder of how minor delays could leave a power vacuum well into next year. Preliminary results from Afghanistan's Aug. 20 vote show President Hamid Karzai winning outright with 54.6 percent. But if enough votes are found to be fraudulent from an election mired in allegations of ballot stuffing and voter coercion, Karzai could dip below the 50 percent threshold needed to avoid a runoff with challenger Abdullah Abdullah. The uncertainty puts the government on hold as Taliban attacks spike and threatens the credibility of the administration at home and abroad. The main question at this point is how much misconduct is acceptable to both Afghans and an international community skeptical of sending troops in support of a tainted government.

Myanmar's Suu Kyi said to welcome new US approach

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes a U.S. initiative to step up contacts with Myanmar's military government, a spokesman for her political party said Thursday. Nyan Win, spokesman for the National League for Democracy party, said Suu Kyi agreed with plans announced by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton for the Obama administration to engage in direct high-level talks with the junta as part of efforts to promote democracy in Myanmar. Washington has for many years taken a hard-line approach toward the junta, applying political and economic sanctions while trying to keep it isolated.

35 die in chimney collapse at power plant in India

NEW DELHI (AP)—Hundreds of rescuers searched Thursday for about 20 people believed still trapped under the rubble of a large chimney that collapsed on workers at a power plant in central India, killing at least 35. It was unclear if any of those missing were still alive after the accident Wednesday in which the 820-foot (250-meter) -tall chimney came crashing down on the plant's cafeteria as the workers had tea. The plant is under construction. "There may be some lucky ones," said R.K. Vij, inspector-general of police. It was uncertain how many were in the cafeteria at the time of the accident, he said, although about 100 people were at the work site.

World

Obama-led UN council backs broad nuclear agenda

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—With President Barack Obama presiding, the U.N. Security Council on Thursday unanimously endorsed a sweeping strategy aimed at halting the spread of nuclear weapons and ultimately eliminating them, to usher in a world with "undiminished security for all."

"That can be our destiny," Obama declared after the 15-nation body adopted the historic, U.S.-initiated resolution at an unprecedented summit session. "We will leave this meeting with a renewed determination to achieve this shared goal."

AP

President Barack Obama chairs a meeting of the United Nations Security Council at the United Nations headquarters, Thursday, Sept. 24, 2009.

The lengthy document was aimed, in part, at the widely denounced nuclear programs of Iran and North Korea, although they were not named. It also reflected Obama's ambitious agenda to embrace treaties and other agreements leading toward a nuclear weapon-free world, some of which is expected to encounter political opposition in Washington.

On both counts, Thursday's 15-0 vote delivered a global consensus—countries ranging from Britain to China to Burkina Faso—that may add political impetus to dealing with nuclear violators, advancing arms control in international forums and winning support

It called for negotiation of a treaty banning production of fissile material for nuclear bombs and establishment of internationally supervised nuclear fuel banks, to keep potential bomb material out of more hands—both items on Obama's agenda.

It also urged states to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), the 1996 pact banning all nuclear bomb tests, another Obama goal.

The United States is among nine nations with nuclear weapons or technology whose approval is required for that treaty to take effect, but which have not ratified the CTBT.

Ousted Honduran president: 1st talks a failure

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Ousted Honduran President Manuel Zelaya said Thursday he has met with an interim government official and begun dialogue aimed at ending the country's protracted political crisis.

Zelaya told Radio Globo that he met Wednesday night with a representative of the temporary government that forced him out of Honduras at gunpoint on June 28, but he wouldn't name the official.

In an interview with the radio station Thursday, Zelaya said that the two sides made no progress, but he called the meeting "the beginning to find peaceful solutions."

Zelaya also met with the four leading candidates competing in the presidential election this fall and said that he plans to meet with business and social leaders this week. Zelaya has said that the Nov. 29 election won't be legitimate unless he is restored to office.

Zelaya had been demanding to talk with interim President Roberto Micheletti since Monday when he sneaked back into the country and took shelter at the Brazilian Embassy.

Micheletti's government did not immediately comment Thursday.

Troops still surrounded the Embassy, where an increasingly exhausted Zelaya, his family and about 70 supporters remained sheltered.

G-8: Iran has 3 months to stop uranium enrichment

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini said Thursday that the Group of Eight nations is giving Iran until the end of the year to commit to ending uranium enrichment and avoid new sanctions.

Frattini, whose nation holds the rotating chair of the club of wealthy nations known as the G-8, said the member's foreign ministers agreed Wednesday night to give Iran more time.

"It seems to me a reasonable perspective. And after the end of December, I strongly hope we will have at that time practical moves from Iran," Frattini said.

"That's why together we decided while not excluding further measures, as even Russia apparently said, we have to give Iran a serious chance," he said. "If we give a chance, let's give a chance. Don't, I would say, immediately put another option on the table. This would be counterproductive to the eyes of our counterpart. This is our strategy for the moment."

WORLD BRIEFS

Netanyahu hits back at Iran Holocaust claims

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Waving the blueprints for Auschwitz and invoking the memory of his own family members murdered by the Nazis, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu delivered his most passionate and public riposte yet to Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's questioning of the Holocaust. The documents he brought to the podium of the U.N. General Assembly Thursday also included the protocol of the meeting where the Nazis decided on the Final Solution. Netanyahu tied the Holocaust issue to Iran's nuclear program and Ahmadinejad's rejection of Israel's right to exist, and seemed to tacitly draw a parallel between the world's treatment of Iran today and its failure to act against Hitler in time to head off World War II and save European Jewry.

S. Africa track chief keeps job after sex-test flap

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—South Africa's athletics chief got a vote of confidence Thursday that means he will keep his job for now even though he admitted to lying about his role in gender tests done on champion runner Caster Semenya. After meeting for several hours Thursday, the council of Athletics South Africa released a brief statement saying it "unanimously expressed confidence in the current ASA leadership." The group's president, Leonard Chuene repeated during the closed-door meeting comments he had previously made in public—that he had lied to protect Semenya—according to a transcript of his speech released by ASA following the closed-door session. "Tell me what should I have done better," Chuene said during the meeting.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, September 26, 2009

OFWs warned on text scams

By CYNTHIA BALANA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The text scammers are at it again.

The Department of Foreign Affairs has warned Filipinos abroad against falling prey to a text scam, which has been circulating in Austria and other countries.

On Wednesday, the DFA ordered foreign posts and missions abroad to alert Filipinos in their jurisdictions about the scam, in which Filipinos were robbed of their money after being told through the short messaging system that they won a raffle sponsored by a government institution and that they must transmit money as payment for taxes or remittance fees, to claim their cash prize.

"The DFA discourages overseas Filipino workers from responding to messages claiming they had won a large amount of money in an electronic lottery or raffle," the DFA said in a statement.

The Philippine Embassy in Vienna reported that those behind the scam have been using public institutions such as the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), as well as the names of known public officials like the BSP Governor Amando Tetangco, Jr. and Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Sixto Esquivias, in order to lure unsuspecting victims.

It said that a woman narrated to the embassy how she had paid a fee of €4,000 (P258,809.00) for the release of her prize, which was supposed to be settled through a remittance center (Western Union) to a certain "Jerry Rivas Vidal," which turned out to be a fictitious identity. The scam artists even asked for an additional P38,900 as donation upon the money transfer.

"The DFA strongly advises Filipinos to be cautious of these malicious schemes and to not respond to such text messages to avoid becoming victims of these scams," the DFA said.

These scams have been reported to the National Bureau of Investigation and National Telecommunication Commission for further investigation.

20 Filipinos still held by Somali pirates—DFA

MANILA, Philippines (AFP)—Twenty Filipino sailors remain in the hands of Somali pirates, the government said on Tuesday, a day after the release of 22 seamen from a Greek-owned merchant vessel who had been held for five months.

The Department of Foreign Affairs said it was working to help the repatriation of the 22 freed sailors whose ordeal began on April 14 when the MV Irene was hijacked while sailing through the Gulf of Aden.

It said the local agency that recruited the Filipinos had informed the government that negotiations for their release had been successful, but gave no details as to whether a ransom had been paid.

Filipino sources said last month that the pirates were demanding $2.8 million to free MV Irene and its crew.

As a policy, the Philippine government does not pay ransom to kidnappers, but it has given shipowners a free hand in negotiating for the release of abducted Filipino seamen.

The Kenya-based East African Seafarers Assistance Programme said on Monday that 21 Filipino seamen had been freed along with the MV Irene, but the foreign affairs department clarified that all 22 had been released.

The department said there were now 20 Filipinos still in the hands of Somali pirates. Seventeen of them were seized on the Win Far 161 when it was hijacked on April 6 and three from the MV Charelle were taken hostage on June 13.

Final OAV tally not yet known

MANILA, Philippines—The final tally for the number of Filipinos overseas who have registered for the overseas absentee voting in time for the 2010 general elections is not yet in, based on the September 4 report of the OAV Secretariat of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The tallies from the Philippines-based registration centers at the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (19,644), the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (14,990), the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (6,869), and the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (6,319) are complete.

The incomplete tally puts the number of OAV registrants at 223,080, with the biggest bulk from Asia and the Pacific (67,275), Middle East and Africa (43,307), Americas (41,418), and Europe (23,258).

By country, the top 10 countries were the United States (33,236), China (26,609), United Arab Emirates (17,478), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (13,543), Singapore (11,296), Taiwan (9,020), Canada (7,738), Japan (7,344), United Kingdom (5,854), and Italy (5,488). ***(INQUIRER.net)***

Manny Pacquiao wary of Cotto's left hook

By FRANK CIMATU
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BAGUIO CITY—Manny Pacquiao will have to resort to hit-and-run tactics to negate whatever advantages Miguel Cotto enjoys in heft, height and strength, according to the Filipino superstar's American trainer, Freddie Roach.

Roach said Pacquiao's speed will also ruin Cotto's fighting style when the two collide for the Puerto Rican's World Boxing Organization welterweight crown on Nov. 14 in Las Vegas.

Pacquiao

"We have to make sure that he wouldn't be able to put both his feet on the ground and land his punches," said Roach, adding they are wary of Cotto's left hook, said to be the most dangerous punch in his arsenal.

Pacquiao is also firming up his torso so that Cotto's body shots will not sting as much, Roach said.

The General Santos City lefty has added "abs crunches" as part of his training regimen at the Shape Up boxing gym here, where Team Pacquiao is expected to stay for about six weeks.

Roach said they are also devising ways to outthink Cotto.

"Cotto's got his great left hook and he's smart," he said.

Pacquiao said his training will focus more on strategy in thwarting the bigger Cotto.

"I am a boxer," Pacquiao said. "I already know the power of my punches. I need more strategy."

WOUNDED EAGLE
In this Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2009 photo released by the Philippine Eagle Foundation, a team of the foundation measures the wing span of a wounded Philippine Eagle, named Pangyan, after the endangered species was retrieved in Trento township, Agusan Del Sur province in southern Philippines. Anna Mae Sumaya, the deputy director of the Breeding Conservation Program of PEF, and her team found the wounded eagle hanging on an improvised hammock with a seemingly weak body and x-ray tests showed Pangyan, named after its place of origin, has two gun pellets still embedded in its body and a wounded right leg. Pangyan is now in the Philippine Eagle Center in Malagos, Davao City undergoing rehabilitation.

AP

LABOR FRONT

Business employer, part-time employer

By FERDIE PONCE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Q: What is the difference between a business employer and a non-business employer?

A: Business employer refers to an employer of any alien worker other than a domestic helper, farmer, or household maintenance or yard worker. According to Labor, an employer who holds a business license may be a corporation, partnership, or other legal entity, or may be a single individual person in a sole proprietorship.

A non-business employer is a single individual person who is not incorporated or operating as a partnership or limited liability company and who does not have a business license. This kind of employer may employ an alien worker only as a domestic helper, a farmer, a household maintenance worker, or a yard worker.

■ ■ ■

Q: Can a business employer become a part-time employer?

A: According to Labor, any business or non-business employer may also be a part-time employer. An alien worker who entered the CNMI pursuant to an approved employment contract and who is currently eligible to remain in the Commonwealth may engage in part-time employment.

■ ■ ■

Q: What will be the penalty for an employer who employs an alien worker for A part-time job without first notifying the Department of Labor?

A: Any person who employs a foreign national worker for part-time work without first filing a notice with Labor may be barred by the Labor director from further employment of foreign national workers in any capacity. The employer may also be assessed a fee equal to all of the fees applicable to an approved employment contract. An order of debarment and an assessment of fees may be appealed to the Labor administrative hearing office within 15 days after the date of the order.

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Congress panel OKs 9th ray in RP flag

MANILA, Philippines—The Senate and the House of Representatives early this week approved the addition of a ninth ray to the sun in the Philippine Flag during the bicameral conference on the disagreeing provisions of the two chambers' versions of a measure amending the Flag and Heraldic Code.

Senator Richard Gordon, chairman of the Senate panel and principal author of Senate Bill (SB) 3307, lauded the approval of the measure saying that it would foster greater unity among Filipinos regardless of religion.

"We are a country that has had a conflict with our Muslim brothers for the last so many decades. I think this is a big step toward reuniting our country, recognizing the contributions of our fellow countrymen, the Filipino Muslims. We should recognize their deeds in our country," he said in a statement.

The bicameral conference committee ironed out the differences between SB 3307 and House Bill 6424. Aside from Gordon, present during the meeting were Senator Juan Miguel Zubiri, and Representatives Del De Guzman, chairman of the House panel, Ma. Carissa Coscoluella, Salvador Escudero III, and Roman Romulo.

SB 3307 proposes amendments to Republic Act 8491, otherwise known as An Act Prescribing the Code of the National Flag, Anthem, Motto, Coat-of-Arms, and Other Heraldic Items and Devices of the Philippines.

Included in the Senate bill is Gordon's proposal to add a ninth ray to the sun in the Philippine flag to acknowledge the courage, bravery, and integrity of Muslim Filipinos who fought for the nation's independence.

"This is a great step in recognizing the fact that we had Muslims such as Lapu-Lapu, Sultan Kudarat, Amai Pakpak, Sorongan, who kept fighting the Spaniards long before this country thought of a revolution against Spain. This would foster unity, make sure that nobody is excluded. If we are to have national unity in this country it must begin in our flag, it must be symbolized in our flag," he said.

"We take an amendment of the law here but we actually amend the mindset of our countrymen and bring the nation back to its original posture, one that will not accept tyranny, one that will oppose tyranny. And we should give credit where credit is due," he added. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

9 Philippine rebels killed in clashes

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Government troops killed nine communist guerrillas during clashes Friday in the eastern Philippines after tracking them down based on tips from residents in the area, officials said.

The clashes were the latest eruption of violence in a 40-year Marxist rebellion that is one of the longest in Asia. The government says the rural-based insurgency has claimed about 120,000 lives and stunted economic growth.

Maj. Gen. Arturo Ortiz said soldiers encountered seven New People's Army rebels early Friday in Albay province's Manito township, triggering a heavy firefight that killed one of the gunmen.

Less than two hours later, another clash broke out in Pilar township in the nearby province of Sorsogon, leaving eight guerrillas dead. Eight high-powered guns were recovered.

No one was hurt among soldiers in both clashes, said Ortiz, head of the military's Special Operations Command.

He said reinforcement troops have been sent to block the fleeing rebels, and to guard vital installations and government projects in the area.

He thanked local residents for their cooperation.

The rebels could not immediately be reached for comment.

Negotiations between the rebels and the government collapsed in 2004 after the rebels blamed the government for their inclusion on U.S. and European lists of terrorist groups. Both sides took steps to resume the talks in recent weeks but the efforts again fell apart.

Philippines to review US military accord

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government will review a 10-year-old military agreement with the United States after Filipino senators called for its renegotiation or termination because it allegedly violates the constitution, officials said Thursday.

The review will cover issues raised by Senate Foreign Relations Committee head Miriam Defensor Santiago against the Visiting Forces Agreement, foreign affairs spokesman Ed Malaya said.

The agreement allows U.S. troops to help Filipino soldiers battle al-Qaida-linked militants and governs their conduct while in the country.

The review will be conducted with other government agencies and will start "as soon as possible," said Edilberto Adan, a retired military general who heads the commission overseeing the implementation of the agreement.

Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro, who has been chosen by administration party leaders as their standard bearer in next year's presidential election, said he preferred the review be made after the polls because otherwise "it will be marred by emotions and politics."

In a resolution presented Wednesday, Santiago's committee urged the Department of Foreign Affairs to renegotiate the agreement or terminate it if Washington refuses. The resolution is expected to be approved by the 23-member chamber next week but is not binding on the administration.

Washington and Manila must agree to any amendments of the agreement, and either side can terminate it with six months' notice.

Santiago said the continued presence of U.S. troops in the country over the past 10 years circumvents a constitutional ban on foreign military bases that are not covered by a formal treaty.

An estimated 600 U.S. troops are currently stationed in the Philippines, mostly in the southern front lines of the Philippine military's operations against the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf group and its ally, the Southeast Asian terror network Jemaah Islamiyah.

The Philippine military's gains against the militants—including the killing and capture of key leaders and operatives—have been credited to training and intelligence provided by the Americans.

Santiago said fully armed U.S. troops embedded with Filipino combat troops operating against the militants were "actually baiting the rebels so that they can fire back."

The Philippine Constitution prohibits foreigners from engaging in combat operations, she said.

Malaya said one provision in the agreement that will be scrutinized grants the U.S. custody of American service members who commit crimes in the Philippines.

The agreement came under fire in 2006 when the U.S. Embassy took custody of a Marine while he was being tried on charges of raping a Filipino woman. He was eventually acquitted by the Philippine Supreme Court.

Filipinos to embark on first automated polls

By JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Automated tallying of ballots for the first time in next year's Philippine presidential election should speed up the notoriously slow counting of votes, but cannot cure man-made problems such as vote-buying, intimidation and terrorism, the country's elections chief said Thursday.

Commission on Elections Chairman Jose Melo said the 7.2 billion peso ($150 million) automated election will be tightly secured from any major glitch, including threats from hackers, and will let Filipinos know who their next president is in about 36 hours—instead of weeks or even years.

"This will be quite a historic event," Melo told a news conference where election officials demonstrated how new Taiwanese-made electronic voting machines will work.

"We want to do away with all the ills of manual elections," said Melo, a respected retired Supreme Court justice. He was designated to head the scandal-plagued elections commission last year.

The Philippines is one of Asia's most lively democracies but its elections, including the 2004 polls that were won by current leader Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, have been sullied by fraud allegations and violence.

Rapidly speeding up the voting, transmitting the results and using electronic counting will do away with the agonizing wait that has sparked cheating and social unrest in the past, Melo said.

Elections have been a logistical nightmare in the impoverished Southeast Asian archipelago. There are more than 320,000 voting precincts in 1,631 cities and townships, including many rural communities threatened by communist guerrillas, Muslim rebels and political warlords.

An estimated 48 million Filipinos will vote next year, Melo said.

Voters were required in the past to write the names of their choices on ballots, and the results were known only after a laborious manual count that could take several weeks. A challenge to Fidel Ramos' presidential victory in 1992 took years before it was dismissed by the Supreme Court.

Under the new system, voters will shade in spots next to the names of candidates, then insert the ballots into optical scanners, which will tally the votes and transmit the results electronically in a few minutes, elections officer Jose Tolentino said.

While the machines can speed up the count, they'll be useless against efforts to intimidate or bribe voters. Possible attempts by rebels and al-Qaida-linked militants to bomb voting centers or destroy the machines are still concerns, Elections Commissioner Rene Sarmiento said.

"Politicians may realize that the (counting) system is already foolproof," Sarmiento said. "My greatest fear is they'll now make sure that the votes that will be fed into that system will be theirs—by intimidation," he said.

A consortium between Netherlands-based Smartmatic and the Philippines' Total Information Management Inc. won the bid to provide 80,000 machines, which will carry protections against hackers comparable to those used by banks, Tolentino said.

AP

Philippine Commission on Elections Chairman Jose Melo points to a machine as Election Commissioner Rene Sarmeinto looks on during a forum on poll automation with the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines or FOCAP Thursday, Sept. 24, 2009 in Manila, Philippines.

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Remittances seen up by 3 percent in 2009

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas expects remittances to grow by more than 3 percent this year.

Under the BSP's original forecast, remittances was supposed to register a flat growth this year from last year's $16.4 billion.

But due to developments in the labor market worldwide, the country may now expect remittances to be higher than first anticipated, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

"We are currently revising our forecast for the growth rate of remittances. As I said before ... the forecast of zero growth is ... very conservative. Based on the latest information, it is possible that the growth rate can exceed 3 percent," Tetangco said.

The BSP is expected to announce its revised official forecast on remittances in October.

In July, money sent in by Filipinos based abroad reached $1.49 billion, marking a 9-percent growth from that in the same month last year. This brought the cumulative amount of remittances for the first seven months of the year to $9.97 billion, up 3.8 percent from that in the same period a year ago.

More Filipinos are still being deployed abroad, greatly outnumbering those who have lost their jobs due to the economic crisis. This development has led to a higher growth in remittances.

AP

Workers fix the sign of the soon-to-open Hypermarket, a supermarket chain owned by the Philippines' richest business tycoon Henry Sy, at Manila's financial district of Makati city Thursday Sept. 24, 2009 in the Philippines. The Philippine economic growth has been largely driven by consumer spending partly with the help of billions of dollars in remittances by 10-percent of the country's population working overseas.

EXCHANGE RATE:
$1 = Php47.36

Officials also said demand from alternative labor markets—those that are less affected by the global turmoil—had also contributed to the increase in the money sent in by Filipinos overseas.

Agreements forged by Philippine government officials with their counterparts abroad had also helped in boosting remittances.

These deals could also result in the deployment of more Filipinos abroad, officials added.

A closely watched economic indicator, remittances help fuel household consumption, which is a key driver of the country's growth. An estimated 10 percent of Filipino households are partly or fully dependent on money sent by relatives working abroad. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

20,000 Filipino workers eyed for South Korea

By REY M. NASOL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LEGAZPI CITY, Philippines—Some 20,000 Filipinos are needed to work at the newly established Integrated Free Export Zone in Incheon, South Korea, according to presidential economic adviser and Albay governor Joey Salceda.

Salceda said a memorandum of agreement with the Ifez was being finalized to formally implement the hiring of 20,000 workers from the Philippines, especially from Albay province.

Salceda was recently installed as economic adviser of the South Korea Incheon Metropolitan Authority, which is implementing the US$178-billion Ifez project.

Incheon is a highly industrial metropolitan area in South Korea.

"The export zone is the biggest integrated development project whose cost is 35 times the annual infrastructure budget in the Philippines," Salceda said.

His investiture as adviser of the South Korean authority was held a week ago at Incheon where the ceremony was witnessed by the mayors of Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Honolulu, Brisbane and Beijing.

Witnesses also included Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim and representatives from 150 major cities in the Asia Pacific.

Salceda was accompanied by four Philippine governors and 14 of the 18 Albay mayors led by Polangui town Mayor Jesus Salceda, the province's League of Municipalities president and father of the governor.

The Philippines sent the biggest delegation, he added.

Salceda said that his economic advice had been frequently sought by Incheon Mayor Sang Soo who, he said, is widely expected to become president of South Korea.

Also in Incheon, the Asia Pacific Cities Summit organizers and participants hailed Albay during its plenary session for having the most unique and creative strategies for development, citing its program on climate change and disaster risk reduction.

The summit moderator specifically highlighted the institutionalization of the Albay Public Safety Emergency Management Office and the Center for Initiatives for Researches in Climate Adaptation.

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Arroyo arrives with 119 Saudi OFWs

MANILA, Philippines—President Macapagal-Arroyo arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport terminal 2 at around 4 pm Thursday together with 119 repatriated Filipino workers from Saudi Arabia. Arroyo and her delegation arrived from a visit to Libya, UK and Saudi Arabia. The Filipino workers, mostly runaways and undocumented migrants, waved small Philippine flags as they walked on the passenger concourse. Arroyo proceeded to the airport's presidential lounge to await a flight to Iloilo. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Bullet-ridden eagle found in Agusan Sur

DAVAO CITY, Philippines—A bullet-ridden Philippine Eagle was found in Trento town, Agusan Del Sur early this week, a conservation group said on Thursday. Richard Bautista, communication officer of Philippine Eagle Foundation, said the badly injured endangered Philippine Eagle (Pithecophaga jefferyii) was discovered by farmer Nenito Tabana in Pangan village on September 21. Tabana, he said, immediately endorsed the eagle to Trento Mayor Irenea Hitgano, who turned it over to the staff of PEF who arrived the following day. Bautista said the initial assessment was that the eagle has a "slim chance of survival" but the team of veterinary experts at the PEF conservation and rehabilitation center in Malagos district here are not about to give up. The gender of the eagle has yet to be known; it is also believed to be around 9 years old. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Solons going for Aquino

MANILA, Philippines—For many congressmen, Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III is the sentimental favorite in the May presidential election, according to Rep. Antonio Cuenco, who himself is "torn between two loves"—Aquino and the administration candidate. But pork barrel considerations are preventing them from revealing what's in their hearts publicly, said Cuenco, a member of the administration Lakas-Kampi-CMD. The Cebu representative Thursday disclosed that most colleagues he had talked with since early this month favored the son of President Corazon Aquino and martyred opposition leader Benigno Aquino Jr. Cuenco himself is undecided, even though his party has announced its selection of Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr. as its standard-bearer. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

TAKE CHARGE

Credit or debit card for your teenager

Editor's Note: This is part of Take Charge of Your Money, a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

Question: My friend's son just entered college and I learned that she gave him a credit card last June. So far, she has had no problems as her son has not been charging much. My own teenage daughter is a senior in high school and I'm thinking of letting her have a supplementary credit card or a debit card next year. Is this a good thing to do? Will this not encourage too much spending?—Joy

Answer: It is every parent's wish and prayer that his/her child will grow up financially responsible. No one wants to see his/her child being deep in debt and dependent on his/her family in adulthood.

This is why parents should inculcate in their children good money habits. They should be taught how to value money, how to use it responsibly, and how to save for their future.

The concept of giving an allowance or "baon" helps parents teach these good money habits. Ideally, children should be given an allowance beginning the early years of grade school, with clear instructions on what it may be used for. As children realize that they can decide whether to spend, save or give to the church or needy some or all of their allowance, they learn that they are responsible for their money decisions as they experience the consequences.

When children move on to college, they are ready for bigger lessons in life. This includes money lessons. A debit card and a credit card may be a good way to reinforce financial responsibility.

But first let's differentiate between a debit and credit card.

With a debit card:

■ You can pay for transactions without carrying cash and without incurring interest since amount is immediately debited from your bank account.

■ You won't have a bill at the end of the month.

■ You have to limit your purchases in accordance with your cleared funds in your bank account.

With a credit card:

■ You can charge purchases and just pay for them later when you receive the bill.

■ You are given a high credit limit, thus you may charge purchases even if you don't have the money in the bank right now.

■ You will have to pay for interest and late payment charges if you don't pay your credit card bill in full and on time.

In adulthood, it is highly likely that your daughter will have both a debit and a credit card. It would be a good idea to have her start on using one or both cards now while she is still under your care so you will be able to guide her well on how to handle them responsibly.

The good thing about giving her a credit card now is you can review or track her spending. She will also have to be conscious about her credit limit and charge only for items that are considered necessary. A credit card will also be helpful when there are emergencies.

With a debit card, your daughter will learn how to live within a budget based on the bank balance. She may also be even more conscious of whether to purchase an item with it or not since the money will be deducted right away from the bank account. However, should emergencies rise, the money accessible via a debit card may not be enough.

You were worried about encouraging too much spending if you give your daughter a credit or debit card. There is nothing to be worried about if you take the time to lay down the ground rules before giving her a card. Here are some tips:

1. Discuss what it may be used for (e.g., books, clothes, payment of cellphone bill), when it may be used (e.g., once a month for clothing) and up to how much the purchase or transaction may be (e.g., P1,000 for clothing a month).

2. Talk about the consequences if she doesn't comply with rules.

3. Let her know that she can consult you first before making a purchase if she has questions or concerns.

4. When the credit card bill arrives, discuss the charges with her to check if she prioritized needs over wants.

5. Give her the responsibility of making sure the credit card bill is paid on time. After you both go over the bill, give her a check with which to pay the credit card bill. This will inculcate in her the importance of paying bills on time.

6. Remind her to safeguard her credit and/or debit card at all times and never to lend it out to anyone. Also remind her to pick a password that cannot be easily guessed. Responsible money habits can be learned early. Good luck!

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Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Richard Gutierrez charged over aide's death

By NORMAN BORDADORA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The Cavite provincial prosecutor has filed a charge of reckless imprudence resulting to homicide against actor Richard Gutierrez before the Municipal Trial Court in Silang, Cavite in connection with the death of his aide in May 2009.

Provincial Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco filed the criminal information against Gutierrez after prosecutors Larry Cabero, Alexander Leveriza and Rosa Elmina Villarin found probable cause to charge Gutierrez in connection with the death of his longtime friend and assistant Nomar Pardo.

"(Gutierrez), being the driver, in-control and in-charge of a Nissan GT-R sedan… willfully, unlawfully and feloniously manage without due regard to traffic laws… by driving the said motor vehicle at speeds grossly in excess of the limits allowed by law (bumped) a Meralco concrete post and three coconut trees with tremendous impact causing multiple injuries to… Nomar Pardo y Estes which resulted to the latter's untimely death to the damage and prejudice of his heirs," the charge sheet read.

Records showed that at 1:30 a.m. on May 22, Gutierrez was driving on the Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay Road with Pardo as his passenger when the car lost control and hit a Meralco post and coconut trees.

Actor Richard Gutierrez

Both Gutierrez and Pardo were injured but the latter died on arrival at the hospital.

The prosecutors found that Gutierrez worked from 5 p.m. until past 12 midnight from the day before. The road was also slippery due to inclement weather.

"(The prosecutor's office) also took into consideration the road condition where the incident happened, a curve way. A prudent man would slow down while driving in a curve way," the prosecutors' resolution read.

"But in this case, evidence clearly showed that the respondent did not exercise proper prudence and slow down as he approached the curve way. The distance of the car from the point of impact, the broken trees, and broken Meralco post all point to the fact that the respondent was reckless and negligent while driving that night," it added.

Answered prayer

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Fun and risky.

This was how director Paul Soriano described working with girlfriend Toni Gonzaga as lead actress in his debut film, "A Journey Home."

"This film made us even closer and strengthened our faith in God, and in each other."

The risk came with directing a loved one, he said. "It can be hard working with someone you're attached to. Sometimes you make decisions based on emotions and that can get you in trouble."

Still the pros outweigh the cons in the long run, he noted. "[I learned] that our working relationship works as well as our personal relationship."

Gonzaga helped motivate co-star Athena Tibi, Soriano added. "I didn't ask her to; Toni just encouraged her. In a few minutes Athena got into character. Toni is a director's actor."

The rest of the cast—Joem Bascon, Soliman Cruz, Lance Raymundo, John Manalo, Tricia Cañete, Tiya Pusit, Lara Morena, among others —were just as "committed and dedicated," he said. "Not only did they listen to me; they remained patient throughout the 11-day shoot spread throughout a 120-day period."

Soriano's passion for the film pulled him through. "It was a test of character," he said. I never prayed so much for a project. The finished product is an answered prayer."

An advertising director, Soriano took a leap of faith with this indie film, which was three years in the making. "Producer Francis Lua first approached me about this project in 2006," he recalled.

Soriano trained under Oscar-winning screenwriter-director Paul Haggis. They met at a private screening of Haggis' "Crash" at the Universal Studios. "I attended a couple of pre-production meetings for 'Flags of Our Fathers' (directed by Clint Eastwood), which he co-wrote. One thing I learned from him was that the [formula for] a successful film is 90 percent preparation, 10 percent execution."

"A Journey Home" premieres Oct. 3 at SM Megamall Cinemas 8, 9 and 10.

Director Paul Soriano and girlfriend Toni Gonzaga get to work together in his debut film, "A Journey Home."

Actress' ex-aide: Dismiss theft raps

MANILA, Philippines—A former personal assistant of actress Jennylyn Mercado has asked a Quezon City court to dismiss the qualified theft charges filed against her by the actress.

In a motion for judicial determination of probable cause filed Thursday before Regional Trial Court Branch 77 Presiding Judge Vivencio Baclig, accused Rowena Pulmano sought for the dismissal of the case for lack of probable cause.

Pulmano alleged that the charge is "a product of wild imagination and erroneous appreciation of facts and improper determination of the real issues involved."

Mercado filed the case after Pulmano allegedly stole more than P500,000 by issuing checks without the actress' knowledge. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Loser Yaya a winner dad and comedian

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Michael V as the loser Yaya and Ogie Alcasid as the bully Angelina take their antics to a higher level in "Spoiled Brat The Movie," which opened in Metro Manila theaters on September 23. Their characters' success has made them a global phenomenon via YouTube.

What's phenomenal about Michael V is his intrigue-free life which is rare for celebrities of his stature. GMA 7's CEO lawyer Felipe Gozon told me that Michael V was one of the most advertiser-friendly Kapuso star because he doesn't get entangled in controversy.

Michael V

How does he manage to stay away from intrigues? "It's a conscious choice," he says. "I hate problems so creating one is the least of my concerns."

What's his fondest memory with Ogie? "When we left 'Tropang Trumpo,'" he recalls. "And when he got separated. For me, those were Ogie's defining moments. His triumph over both tells you how much of a man he has grown."

What makes a funnyman like him cry? "Sad news, sad movies," he quips. "And directors who believe I can pull off a career in drama."

What's the funniest thing that ever happened to him? "When I was a kid, I actually thought it would be funny if I got famous," he says. "Now I think I'm famous because people actually think I'm funny."

What's his fave yaya memory? "I came from a poor family; hence, no yaya," he says. "My wife and I are hands-on parents so our kids don't need yayas. My wife retired when our eldest, Milo, turned 2. He's now 15. Our other kids are Yanni (11), Migo (6) and May Paul (10 months). We don't have a personal driver, too. I pick up my kids from school."

Unlike his Loser Yaya character, Michael V is a winner dad and comedian.

No new man

Maxene Magalona shrugs off rumors that JC Tiuseco is the new man in her life. "I just broke up with my BF of six years," she explains, "so I'm not yet ready for anything romantic. JC and I are barkada with Patrick Garcia, Glaiza de Castro and Rich Asuncion. We all became close because of our show."

Isn't JC boyfriend material? "I'm still in the recovery stage after my last relationship. I just want to concentrate on my work and my thesis."

Time's up for Maxene and her ex so she's taking time out from love.

Full support

Ai Ai de las Alas is having the time of her life shooting her movie with Erap. "Nakakatawa nung first day shooting naming [Our first day of shooting was funny]. I wore a blouse with a plunging neckline," she says. "Erap asked me if I was wearing a bra (laughs)."

Love triangle

Mark Herras and Jennylyn Mercado are reunited in GMA 7's "Ikaw Sana," which premieres this Monday night before "24 Oras" on the Telebabad Block. Jen portrays a music teacher (Eliza) whose life is about to change. With the untimely demise of her mother, Eliza is forced to live with her father's legitimate family. Trouble begins when Eliza and her half-sister Sofia (Pauleen Luna) fall for the same guy (Mark Herras).

Will Mark rekindle his romance with Jen or fall for Pauleen? "They are both super ganda [beautiful]," he says "But it would be best for all of us to keep our relationship on a professional level."

BOOB-TUBE BOOBOOS

Stand-in comedy, psychological ice pick

By NESTOR TORRE
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

HOST: Why, of all the stars we have, did you decide to become a fan of (name of female star)?

Fan: Because I idolize her since childbirth!

(Yours—or hers?)

■ ■ ■

Host: How beautiful did your best friend (name of star) look at her wedding?

Guest: So beautiful—para siyang wedding gown na naglalakad!

(That beautiful, huh?)

Good future

Host: What should a teacher do to guide students to a good future?

Guest: Dapat, we should guide them para ma-realize nila ang tamang mali!

(Hey, that's quite a trick!)

■ ■ ■

Host: What kind of actor do you want to be?

Guest: Comedian.

Host: What kind of comedy?

Guest: Stand-in comedy!

(Which comedy star do you wish to stand in for?)

■ ■ ■

Host: Do you think the government contract was legal?

Guest: In my opinion, how it was done, para namang properly with the right connections.

(Ano daw?)

■ ■ ■

Host: If you were the one accused, would you plead guilty?

Guest: Since I'm not the one, I think that's a hypotesticle question!

(Absolutely no comment!)

■ ■ ■

Host: Do you think stress can push a desperate person to acts of violence?

Guest: Of course, it can.

Host: Why of course?

Guest: Because stress can affect what you call the psychological ice pick ng tao.

(Ice pick? —Violent talaga!)

Potential

Host: What do you think of (name of new star), his potential?

Guest: I'm sure he will go a long places!

(He's that good, huh?)

■ ■ ■

Host: What did you do on your birthday?

Guest: I went to an exclusive beach resort with my family.

Host: Did you go inside the water?

(Would you like to rephrase your question—please?)

■ ■ ■

Host: Congratulations on your victory. Do you want to thank anybody?

Guest: Yes, I'd like to thank you the judges!

(Oh, never mind!)

Maharlika – Opinyon

Transparency now a defining issue in campaign

In the first opinion poll taken after the withdrawal from the 2010 presidential race of Sen. Mar Roxas on Sept. 1, Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III surged ahead to a 51 percent lead against his prospective rivals, throwing into disarray the entire frame of the derby. The surge shell-shocked, marginalized and brusquely swept aside the previous front-runners in the race.

In the Social Weather Stations poll taken on Sept. 5 to 6 in the strategic Dagupan-Lucena corridor, from Central to Southern Luzon, home to 40 percent of registered voters, Aquino cut the ratings of Sen. Manuel Villar to a measly 14 percent, convicted former President Joseph Estrada to 13 percent, Sen. Francis Escudero to 12 percent, and Vice President Noli de Castro to 7 percent. The survey was made in the National Capital Region, Pangasinan, Region 3 (Central Luzon) and Region 4-A (portions of Southern Tagalog).

Although the poll reflected sentiment only in the Dagupan-Lucena corridor, the results reflected a strong undercurrent of preference of Aquino if election had been held in early September. The results shattered the early confidence of Villar and caught him reeling, reducing him to saying people should wait until the nationwide poll results, due at the end of the month, are known.

There were indications in the early results of a deep undercurrent of support for Aquino—and a tendency toward a landslide, if the early results are sustained nationwide in the next few months. The poll was taken a day after Roxas' withdrawal but a week before Aquino announced that he would run for president.

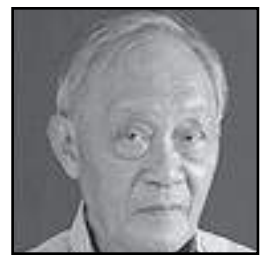
The results also revealed the presidential-vice presidential tandem preferences of the voters. The respondents said they favored an Aquino-Roxas team, 51 percent (the same percentage they gave for Aquino), Estrada-Loren Legarda, 12 percent; Villar-Kiko Pangilinan, 11 percent, Escudero-Jejomar Binay, 9 percent; and De Castro-Ronnie Puno, 4 percent.

The results prompted a reshuffling of the team-ups, and left most likely a combination of Aquino and Roxas for the Liberal Party. Aquino has asked Roxas to be his vice president running mate, but Roxas has not yet announced his decision.

The results showed that Aquino and Roxas would support each other in the same ticket. Villar is uncertain up until now as to whom he would choose as his running mate, reflecting the confusion sowed by the early results on both the government and opposition camps. On the administration side, the immediate impact of the survey results was that De Castro has informed the administration Lakas-Kampi-CMD alliance that he would not run for president under its banner. The merger of administration parties is likely to settle for Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro, who did not show impressive ratings in the previous opinion polls. It remains to be seen how Teodoro would rate in the next survey and whether or not Aquino's surge has sidelined Teodoro farther.

Aquino claims that the early SWS poll results were confirmed by similar results in eight other separate surveys. He interpreted the results as an indication that "people want change."

From my own point of view, the survey results reflect the deep and broad resonance of the issue of clean and honest governance that highlights Aquino's campaign theme. The groundswell of support for Aquino following the death of his mother, President Cory Aquino, flows from the public service record of his mother and his father, the martyred former Sen. Benigno Aquino whose honesty and transparency appear to have been accepted by the Filipino public.



Analysis

By AMANDO DORONILA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The transparency and honesty issue appears to have gained ground as the central issue of the 2009 election. It is driving the Aquino campaign, although no presidential aspirant can claim ownership of the issue.

As a result of the latest survey, Villar has to revise his issues and present a more grabbing theme than his old motif of his having risen from rags to riches and his having helped overseas Filipino workers.

The survey results appear to have damaged the chances of Estrada, even as Sen. Panfilo Lacson stepped up his accusations against his former boss. In a privilege speech, Lacson accused Estrada of having bullied businessman Alfonso Yuchengco into selling his stake in the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. to Manuel V. Pangilinan. The senator also said Estrada may have something to do with the murder in 2000 publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer. Lacson also said the former president had intervened for the release of smuggled chicken and rice during his administration, and allowed jueteng operations to flourish.

While some of charges are old hat, since they were dealt with in his impeachment and plunder trial, these new accusations impair Estrada's credentials to act as a unifying agent of the fractured opposition parties and also damaged his moral authority.

It is now clear that honesty and transparency in governance have become the defining and overarching issue in this election camping. This has crystallized in the early poll surveys. Villar and the rest of the field have to reinvent their campaign themes.

EDITORIAL

Fatal flaw

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago has called on her ally in Malacañang to either renegotiate the Visiting Forces Agreement with the United States or terminate it. The timing of Santiago's shepherding of the recommendations of the Legislative Oversight Committee on the VFA through the Senate maze is not entirely innocent of speculation; it comes after President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's ultimately unsuccessful call on the White House.

Whether the motivation is to spite the Americans or not, the administration stalwart's new-found skepticism of the VFA, which led to the adoption on second reading of Senate Resolution 1356, calling on the President to serve notice on the Americans that the VFA must be renegotiated or terminated, is most welcome.

"The fatal flaw of the VFA is the failure to specify the period of stay of visiting forces, and the failure to define what are the 'activities' that they can engage in while in Philippine national territory," Santiago said in her sponsorship speech.

Actually, the fatal flaw of the VFA is that it reflects an unequal relationship. The Philippines considers it a treaty; the United States looks at it as a mere executive agreement. All the other defects, which Santiago now sees, flow from this imbalance.

Santiago has also belatedly discovered the existence of a VFA 2, which is apparently even more lopsided in favor of the United States. "We hardly know anything about VFA 2, and as a result, we do not know what supplementary agreements have been negotiated with the US," she said. "VFA 2 is even worse [than the original], because it grants certain privileges to the US which are not granted to the Philippines."

None of this is news, exactly, except for the fact that it involves Santiago, a close ally of the President's and a prominent lawyer in her own right. Many of those who opposed the VFA back in 1999, when it came up for ratification by the Senate, can truthfully say, "I told you so." Just the same, it is important that the Senate has voted to convey its sense of the issue to the President.

In her speech, Santiago enumerated several inequalities in the agreements. The first item on her list is familiar to anyone who followed the Subic Bay rape case: An American soldier who broke the law in the Philippines can be detained at the US Embassy, not in a Philippine prison. This is a courtesy that, in its exaggerated kindness to a certain kind of stranger, mocks the courteous and insults their hospitality.

Santiago also raised an argument against the VFA built on the revelations pieced together from various news reports filed over several years. Today, she said, American soldiers "are now embedded [among] RP combat troops, wearing uniforms and carrying firearms. The RP Constitution prohibits foreigners from engaging in combat operations, either in traditional warfare, or in unconventional warfare." This has always been one of the arguments against the VFA: that it opened the door to American military participation in AFP operations. Ten years later, the Senate is ready to tell the President that it's time to shut the door.

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On the cusp of redemption

It's interesting that the President and her people have reserved their most venomous attacks for two senators: Manuel Roxas II and Benigno Aquino III. She seems less concerned about her other critics or potential successors while being particularly offended, even threatened, by these two. This is the best possible endorsement either man could possibly politically desire.

Both men, on the other hand, have pledged not to further divide their party, which already has a faction that decided to tie itself to the President's apron strings but which realizes it has found neither a fixed place in the existing administration coalition nor much of a political future if it doesn't somehow eke out a return to its original Liberal affiliation before 2010.

Both men have stated they will discern the country's call, in partnership with their partymates, who have, in a sense, the rare luxury of choice which other parties don't enjoy.

Both Roxas and Aquino have shown the necessary openness to answer the country's call, within the context of being their party's standard-bearer. Both will eventually make the right choice so long as they discern the national need for redemption.

The Long View

By MANUEL L. QUEZON III
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Call it apathy, call it cynicism, call it disappointment, or even pragmatism: Redemption is what the country has required since 2005, and what has evaded it, as it seemed unreachable until quite recently. The citizenry, as being at the mercy of the professional politicians playing a power game that has come to be perfected in the hands of its current, unrepentant, practitioners, fostered the sense that the only means to preserve sanity seemed to be resignation—not in terms of a President prepared to shed blood to retain office, but resignation by a public that sensed it would be fatal to truly resist—and which, even when it sputtered in indignation, had to wonder if the current crop of leaders were motivated by anything other than ambition.

There is one great benefit to the Great Remembering that has taken place this month, and it involves George Santayana's oft-misquoted observation that "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Now that remembering has taken place, what is the real lesson, the real comparison, between 1986 and 2010?

The lesson is, the political game will degenerate into merely a contest involving guns, goons and gold, unless the public can see itself capable of summoning not just leaders, but itself, to greatness. The similarity is, there is an administration that thrives on dividing, bribing and intimidating the people.

And yet this leads me in turn to wonder if there isn't a danger if we're perceiving things purely in terms of reenacting 1986. Karl Marx famously pointed out that "History repeats itself, first as tragedy, second as farce." The repetition of Edsa in 2001 ended up a tragedy. Summoning the Spirit of '86—only to reenact it like a bad high school performance of Joan of Arc—could end up a farce.

Bruce Reed, writing of Ted Kennedy, observed, "Every cause is better served when principle takes a seat at the table, and no cause moves forward when its champions walk away." The focus on Noynoy and Mar will end up a farce if not accompanied by a self-examination, on their part and those calling on one or the other to be drafted for the presidency and vice-presidency, as to why the call is being made and the manner that call can inspire the electorate.

The real issue for 2010, based on a real appreciation of our past, is: will the next president continue the Arroyo legacy of impunity by means of the combined clout of the presidential checkbook and saber? The sense of impunity applies to all things, from broad concepts of human rights, to flouting the specific provisions of law, to ignoring even generally accepted (until recently, anyway) interpretations of the separation of powers, to the self-serving and downright deceitful presentation of official statistics.

This has been made possible by a President prepared to turn what should be normal operations of the law and institutions into an auction in which the support of a parade of civilian, military and religious leaders willing to be bought by a chief executive in turn prepared to be the highest bidder. Conditioned by this, the parade of leaders at the President's side today will simply march to the tune of any drummer prepared to bang on the cashbox the loudest.

And don't forget that where there are carrots there's always a big stick: the President has always pointedly reminded who might be offended by her cash-based governance that she has the armed might to selectively persecute those who disagree with her. This threat will endure going into the May polls.

For 2010, too, will involve a referendum on collaboration. To elect an administration candidate or one who pursues the same tactics as the present dispensation, will be to endorse and continue the Arroyo legacy of impunity which was made possible by so many officials either cooperating with her, or surrendering integrity and independence to her.

There are only two track records that will matter: that of the supporters of the present dispensation who backed it through thick and thin, particularly after 2005, and those who decided to do the right thing by parting ways with the President, even in the face of the ferocious attacks and harassment by her minions.

Next May, even as the entire leadership of the country from council to president will be up for election, and even as the President attempts to keep herself relevant—whether to perpetuate herself or simply ensure she and her sons don't end up in exile or in jail—the choice is already obvious: whether it will be Mar or Noynoy, or both, the country already knows they're the only two whom the present dispensation can't tolerate. In that sense, they have already been redeemed.

Maharlika – Samu't Sari

THANK YOU!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The players and family members of team AZ ATMARAO would like to thank their supporters in Arizona and back home in the CNMI who contributed one way or another to the team. Special thanks to Juan Tenorio (Santiago) & JET Group of Companies, House Speaker Arnold Palacios, Rep. Ramon Tebuteb, Rep. Ray Yumul, Rep. Ralph Torres and Senate President Pete Reyes. Team ATMARAO would also like to thank our families and friends here and there back home for their continued support. *Un dankolo na si yu'us ma'ase' ginen ballero yan i familian Team Atmarao!*

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday greetings to Gloria Villanueva, second from right, who celebrated her 50th birthday on Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009, at her residence in As Lito, Saipan. Greetings coming from the Sto. Nino Group of Saipan. Picture shows the celebrant joined by, front from left, Vicky and Ranie; and standing from left, Boboy, Marlene, Arlene, Edith, Lou, and Ampi.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday Nina Marie A. Rivera. May you be showered with gifts and alcohol on your sacred day! Love always, your fiancé David Baker and the Rivera family.

REAL FATHER

Some fathers are just father figures;
A real father is still very rare;
That's why we value so highly
The father/son/daughter bond that we share.

We're blessed to have a real father,
Who displays his love with such ease,
And that's why we say on your birthday,
We love you more than a mouse loves its cheese!

Happy 42nd birthday to our dad, Emery Limes Peter, shown here with granddaughter Miah! We love you! Love always, Charu and Miah.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy, happy birthday to Ms. Daisy Villagomez-Bier, who is celebrating her birthday today, Sept. 26! May you have a great day and many more birthdays to come! Much love coming out from your entire family, SAES Octopus family, and your fabulous counseling colleagues.

Happy 1st birthday to Yuan Relorcasa Francia! You rock our world! We love you baby! God bless!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ESGR WEEK CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Acting Gov. Eloy Inos joins Reserve troops, members of the ESGR Committee, and supporters for a group photo after the ESGR proclamation.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Acting Gov. Eloy Inos poses with Department of Public Safety Commissioner Santiago Tudela, former DPS commissioner, Gregorio M. Camacho and Claudio K. Norita, and former Superior Court presiding judge Edward Manibusan before the proclamation signing on Sept. 23 declaring Sept. 20-26 as Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, or ESGR, Week in the CNMI.

COASTAL CLEANUP CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Friends of the Mariana Islands joined in the International Coastal Cleanup held on Sept. 19, 2009. Betty Matson, shown in this photo, is FMI's youngest trash warrior volunteer.

Trash warriors Mely, Camilo and Precy join the International Coastal Cleanup held Sept. 19, 2009.

YoungStyle

Young actors in 'Fame' enjoy the hard work of performing

By MARGARET WEBB PRESSLER
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

(Left to Right) Joy (Anna Maria Perez de Tagle), Kevin (Paul McGill), Neil (Paul Iacono), Jenny (Kay Panabaker, seated), and Marco (Asher Book, seated) jamming in the cafeteria in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pictures and Lakeshore Entertainment's FAME

The new movie "Fame," which comes out Friday, takes place in a high school and features lots of catchy music and dancing by students—a formula that has been pretty successful at the movies recently.

But unlike the "High School Musical" films, "Fame" takes a more realistic look at just how hard you have to work to become a stage or film star. It's an exciting and creative process, for sure, but the movie makes it clear that the path to fame can be full of disappointment, too.

Set at a fictitious performing arts high school in New York, the film follows a group of talented students through four years at the school, both in and out of class. (Ask your parents about "Fame"; it may be that they were big fans of the 1980 musical when they were your age.) Two of the actors, like the characters they play in the movie, love what they do, and that makes the hard work worth it.

"I don't see it as work; being on set is my fun time," said actress Kay Panabaker, 19, who plays the shy acting student Jenny. You may have seen Panabaker as Georgie in "Nancy Drew" a couple of years ago, and she has appeared in Disney Channel movies and shows including "Read It and Weep" and "Phil of the Future."

Panabaker has worked as an actress since she was 10. (Her older sister, Danielle, is also an actress.) But even though she loves acting, she's not too caught up in that world.

"I may not act for my entire life," she said. "If I weren't an actor, I'd want to either be a teacher or an animal trainer." Panabaker grew up with dogs, but right now the only pets she has time for are her three goldfish: Squishy, Squishy's Friend and Squashy.

Panabaker's co-star in the film, on the other hand, is pretty sure he'll be involved in music for a long time. Asher Book plays her boyfriend Marco in the movie, a role that showcases his beautiful voice.

The youngest of three kids, Book was always singing at home. At 6 he auditioned for Disney's production of "Beauty and the Beast" on Broadway and won the part of Chip the teacup. He traveled for different roles through his school years in suburban Washington and finally moved to Los Angeles before high school with his mother and sister.

Once he was settled in California, his childhood became a little more normal. "It was only when I was young that I was traveling with a tutor," he said. "I did all four years at a normal high school."

Now 21, Book continues to work hard on both acting and music, though he calls them "two different worlds." He's lead singer for the pop group V Factory but still takes voice lessons. "No matter how good you think you are, you always need to try to improve," he said.

There is one thing, though, that Book wishes would come a little easier. "I'm not too good at surfing," he said.

But he keeps trying.

How did pirates really die?

By HOWARD BENNETT
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

If you've seen the "Pirates of the Caribbean" movies, you might think that most pirates died by having dangerous objects rip through their bodies. However, swords, guns and cannonballs were not what sent most pirates to Davy Jones's locker (meaning, to their death). Instead, a pirate's greatest enemy was disease: food poisoning, malnutrition, infection. Here are a few of the conditions that the seafaring scoundrels had to contend with.

■ Scurvy. Pirates often spent long periods of time at sea. Because electricity and refrigerators had not been invented, there was little they could do to preserve food. Therefore, their diet included meat, biscuits, rotten vegetables, stale water and rat droppings! Scurvy is a disease that results from a lack of vitamin C, which is abundant in fruits and vegetables. Symptoms include bleeding gums, fatigue, diarrhea, having your teeth fall out and death.

■ Infection. Everyone in the 18th century had to put up with limited medical care. No one knew that germs cause infection or that there were simple ways to treat infections. Many pirates died from blood poisoning after injuries that could be easily treated today. On top of that, pirates lived in close quarters, so it was easy for infection to spread from one person to another. This would lead to epidemics of the flu, diarrhea and other contagious diseases on a ship. (Keep in mind that there were no toilets on pirate ships, which meant that the crew had to deposit their bodily products directly into the ocean — and I doubt that anyone washed their hands after they went to the "bathroom.")

■ Skin conditions. Pirates were a dirty lot. No one took baths back then, and pirates wore the same clothes day after day. This lack of cleanliness resulted in rashes, lice and even fleas.

Arrr, matey! Now you know why your parents bug you to take baths, change your clothes and eat fruits and veggies!

PIRATE FACT

Antibiotics would have cured many pirate diseases, but the first antibiotic, penicillin, wasn't used to treat sickness until the mid-1900s! ***(The Washington Post)***

Bennett is a Washington pediatrician and author of health-related books for kids.

Why do kids have to go to school?

By VALERIE STRAUSS
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

For one thing, it's the law. If you didn't go, your parents could be in big trouble.

But there are other important reasons that kids in the United States—and most other countries—are required to attend school until they reach a certain age.

For one thing, a healthy democracy depends on people who are informed about many issues. Citizens vote, and they take part in other civic duties— and educated people are likely to make better choices.

Each person, too, benefits from going to school.

The more education someone has, the more money he is likely to make during his life. And being in school helps you learn how to deal with others, set goals and get things done. Those are important skills.

Requiring kids to go to school is called "compulsory education." (Compulsory means that you have to do something.) But American kids didn't always have to attend.

In fact, only wealthy people went to school until the 1840s. (Remember that the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776.)

A Massachusetts official named Horace Mann led a movement to change that, and by 1900 free elementary school was available to American children.

The U.S. Education Department says that in 1869-70, the average number of days each student attended was 78. By 1900, it was 144 days, and by 1950, it was 178.

Kids got the summer off from school because schools, in earlier times, followed a farmer's schedule. That allowed kids to help bring in the summer harvest. That tradition stuck.

Today kids in most states are required to go to school for 180 days each academic year. That allows for four nine-week periods of 45 days or two 90-day semesters.

But beware: Some educators think kids should be in school a lot longer.

Some schools have raised the number of required school days, and some folks think that sometime soon, 200 days will be the magic number—so enjoy 180 while you can!

Is poison ivy really poisonous?

By HOWARD BENNETT
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Going camping and hiking in the woods are two of the high points of being a kid. The trouble is, there's more to a forest outing than sleeping under the stars and throwing burrs at your friend. Some things in the woods are dangerous. And while few people will have the misfortune of running into a mother bear with her cubs (this is very dangerous), most of us will cross paths with poison ivy at one time or another.

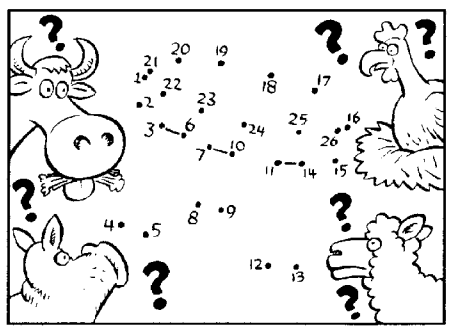
Poison ivy isn't poisonous in the way that, say, a snake's venom can be. However, most people are allergic to a chemical named urushiol (pronounced oo-ROO-she-al) that is produced by the plant. It's probably called "poison" ivy because the plant can cause a nasty rash and people used to think it was poisonous.

If you come in contact with urushiol, it will bind to your skin within 30 minutes, meaning it can no longer be spread or washed off. But it can be spread during this 30-minute period, which is why you can get the chemical on your leg and end up with a rash on other parts of your body.

You probably won't realize you've got poison ivy until a few days after you touch the plant, when your skin may start to itch and possibly blister. It may surprise you (and maybe your mom) to learn that scratching won't cause the rash to spread. Still, it's not good for you to scratch your skin. You also can't "catch" poison ivy from a friend whose rash touches your skin. But it's a good idea to wash your hair and body thoroughly after an outing to the woods.

Mild cases of poison ivy can be treated with oatmeal baths and/or creams that can be bought without a prescription. If the rash is extremely itchy or has spread to large parts of your body, you may need stronger creams or even oral medications that your doctor can prescribe. Poison ivy can get infected, so if you have a red, swollen area that hurts a lot, your parents will probably want to take you to the doctor.

Howard Bennett is a Washington pediatrician and author of health-related books for kids.



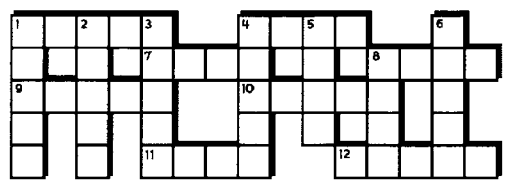
DO YOU KNOW what a country seat is? Connect the dots and find out.

Answer: A milking stool.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

A BOYS' NAMES PUZZLE



Below are 15 boys' names you'll need to complete the puzzle grid to the left. Use the trial-and-error method.

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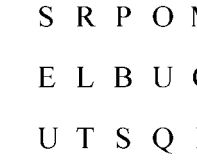
Illustrated by David Coulson

4-letter words:	5-letter words:
ADAM	ABNER
ALAN	ADAIR
AJAX	ALGER
HANS	ANGUS
OTIS	COREY
OTTO	GRANT
	LISLE
	NIGEL
	RALPH

Answers: (Across) 1. Adair. 4. Ajax. 7. Alan. 8. Otis. 9. Nigel. 10. Grant. 11. Hans. 12. Corey. (Down) 1. Abner. 2. Alger. 3. Ralph. 4. Angus. 5. Adam. 6. Lisle. 8. Otto.

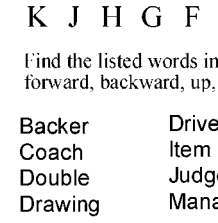
THE PUZZLE FENCE! In this problem you must use the same number five times, in a math expression, so that the result will be 19. There are two solutions.



Answer: 18 + (18 / 18 + 18) = 19. 20 - (20 + 20 / 20 + 20) = 19.

DON'T SNOOZE OFF ON THIS ONE! In this puzzle, all of the words get progressively longer, and they all start with DEN. Some hints are:

1. Animals' home (given).
2. To refuse.
3. A favorite on farms.
4. Result of accident.
5. Most populated area.
6. Eating sets.



Answers: 1. Den. 2. Deny. 3. Denim. 4. Dented. 5. Densest. 6. Dentures.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was British novelist Terry Pratchett who made the following extremely sage observation: "Some humans would do anything to see if it was possible to do it. If you put a large switch in some cave somewhere, with a sign on it saying 'End-of-the-World Switch. PLEASE DO NOT TOUCH,' the paint wouldn't even have time to dry."

■ You probably don't think much about the fees charged at ATMs, but maybe you should start. That $1 here, $2.50 there really adds up —to more than $4 billion every year in the U.S. alone.

■ Do you suffer from prosopagnosia? Unless you've suffered some kind of injury to your brain, probably not. Also known as face blindness, prosopagnosia is the inability to recognize familiar faces.

■ The Goliath frog of West Africa can reach up to a foot in length and weigh more than 7 pounds.

■ Wimbledon, played in the United Kingdom and one of the four Grand Slam events, is the oldest tennis tournament in the world. Every year at the event about 42,000 balls are used.

■ If you're a fan of the tiny, rubbery candy known as the Gummi Bear, here's some good news for you: The world's largest Gummi Bear is now on the market, available for about $30. The equivalent of 1,400 regular-size bears, the giant candy weighs 5 pounds.

■ The Campbell's Soup paintings by Andy Warhol have become iconic, with collectors paying up to $11.7 million to own one. The very first one ever sold, however, cost only $100. That was way back in 1962, and the buyer was actor Dennis Hopper.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "Why is it that our memory is good enough to retain the least triviality that happens to us, and yet not good enough to recollect how often we have told it to the same person?"—Francois de La Rochefoucauld

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MAGIC MAZE ● LINE —

A	C	Z	W	U	R	P	M	J	H	R	G	E	C	Z
M	X	Y	U	E	J	U	D	G	E	S	N	Q	N	L
J	E	G	R	V	E	C	R	G	Z	T	I	S	X	V
T	R	T	P	I	C	O	A	C	H	N	C	L	J	H
E	C	A	I	R	U	N	W	G	Y	O	N	W	V	T
R	P	N	L	D	A	Q	I	K	R	I	A	G	E	C
B	Z	X	W	M	E	S	N	E	F	E	D	F	O	U
S	R	P	O	M	F	R	G	I	L	J	K	I	G	E
E	L	B	U	O	D	D	C	B	F	A	Y	C	X	W
U	T	S	Q	P	E	R	I	F	F	O	O	N	A	L
K	J	H	G	F	D	C	K	R	O	W	F	O	B	B

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Backer	Drive	Of credit	Of sight
Coach	Item	Of defense	Of work
Double	Judge	Of fire	Score
Drawing	Manager	Of inquiry	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult ★★★ GO FIGURE!

	÷		x		14
+		−		−	
	+		+		16
x		x		x	
	x		+		15
17		18		12	

1 2 4 5 6 7 8 9 9

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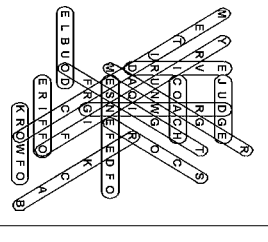
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

	12		18		17
15	6	+	9	x	1
	x		x		x
16	5	+	2	+	9
	−		−		+
14	7	x	4	÷	8

Dog's constant licking isn't just gratitude

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Help! Three months ago I adopted a wonderful red Australian Shepherd from the shelter. "Shep" is very intelligent and easy to train, but has a very annoying habit: He constantly wants to lick me. My face, hands, neck—any bare skin area is a target. I thought he was just showing gratitude for being adopted, but it hasn't diminished.

I have a full-time job, so I'm gone about nine hours a day, and as soon as I walk in the door he's at it. I let him lick me as soon as I walk in the door, but then he won't stop. What can I do to discourage this?—Nancy H., Bloomfield, N.Y.

DEAR NANCY: First, let me say congratulations on your new pet. Shep sounds like a really great dog. He seems well-behaved and isn't tearing up the house while you're gone.

The licking, however, is an unacceptable behavior. And because he's an energetic dog, finding the root cause of his compulsive behavior is very important. Read up on the traits of Australian Shepherds and talk to other Aussie owners, all of whom have probably experienced one Aussie behavior or another.

Shep is a high-energy herd dog, bred to run all day without tiring. So being inside the house for several hours is probably a bit taxing for him. He's also an adoptee, a pet that lost one family and gained another, and I'll bet there's more than a bit of separation anxiety in that compulsive licking.

If possible, have a friend or a professional pet sitter come and walk or play with Shep in the middle of the day while you're out to work off some of that energy. When you walk in the door, don't let him lick you at all. Train him in "sit-stay" and use this command every time you come in. Once you are home, take him out for a walk, or ideally, to an open area where he can run to work off that pent-up energy.

Pick up training manuals that deal specifically with Aussies and that address anxiety issues. If basic behavioral methods don't work for Shep, consider consulting a professional trainer to help diagnose and address his behavior.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Make seed cards from faded flowers

Picking the last blooms off spindly plants in your family garden might seem like a final salute to summer's beauty, but don't say your adieus yet. A scraggly looking plot gone to seed is ripe for more family gardening fun. Hiding in pods and flowers are thousands of seeds waiting to be discovered, sorted and saved for next season's planting.

You can keep dried seeds in small containers with tight-fitting lids and store in the refrigerator until it's time to plant them next year. Or, share seeds with others embedded in homemade recycled paper shapes you can give as unique gift cards. When spring comes around, they can be planted in their gardens, card and all!

Here's how:

Collect seeds. Pick flowers, such as marigolds or poppies, whose petals have died or where a seed head has formed. Shake out the seeds on pieces of paper, keeping them separated by flower type. Let them dry out for a day or two.

Make homemade paper shapes.

1. Tear newspaper, colorful construction paper, phone book pages and/or junk mail into 1-inch-by-1-inch strips and toss into a blender until it is half-full. (Avoid using shiny paper from magazines.) Add water to cover the paper, and blend on high speed into a thick, goopy consistency, like oatmeal. Toss in some colorful flower petals if you wish, and give the goop a final pulse.

2. Meanwhile, set a paper-making screen frame or use a scrap piece of stiff window screen over an old towel used for crafts. Set a large cookie cutter on the screen, then pour a thin layer of the paper and water "goop" into the shape. Press with a sponge or towel to force excess water through the screen. Sprinkle and press seeds of the same kind of plant into the goop in the cookie cutter.

3. Carefully lift the screen onto an old towel. Remove the cookie cutter to reveal its shape. Set a towel on top and press more water out of the shape. Make several seed cards and let dry in a warm, dry place for a day or two.

4. Punch a hole and thread ribbon through the cards for gift tags, inserts to holiday or birthday cards, or use as a clever place setting at a party. Add a cheery note with directions to plant the seed card directly in a prepared flowerpot or garden next spring.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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In Celebration of His New Life

DOMINGO P. FAJARDO
aka "Lolo"

Born: December 21, 1920 • Died: September 22, 2009

In his new life, he now joins his:
Father: Angel P. Fajardo
Mother: Filomina S. Fajardo
Brother: Antonio P. Fajardo

Survived by:
Wife: *Adela M. Fajardo*

Children: *Luisito Allan Fajardo & Farah P. Fajardo (Karen Marie, Kristine Kate & Kiesha Jane)*
Romulo Fajardo & Lucila Fajardo (Russell)
Josie F. Morales & Paul Morales (& Children)
Romeo Fajardo & Marlene Fajardo (& Children)
Rey Fajardo & Dolly Fajardo (& Children)
Rolly Fajardo & Children
Rodelio Fajardo & Baby Fajardo
Rodolfo Fajardo & Vicky Fajardo

Friends and Relatives: Narcisa D. Illahi, Danilo & Lolita (& Children), Sonny & Aida Navarro, Victor & Cris Cabrera (& Children), Lito Cabrera

Nightly Rosary is being said at 7:00 p.m. at Fajardo's Residence in Chalan Piao.

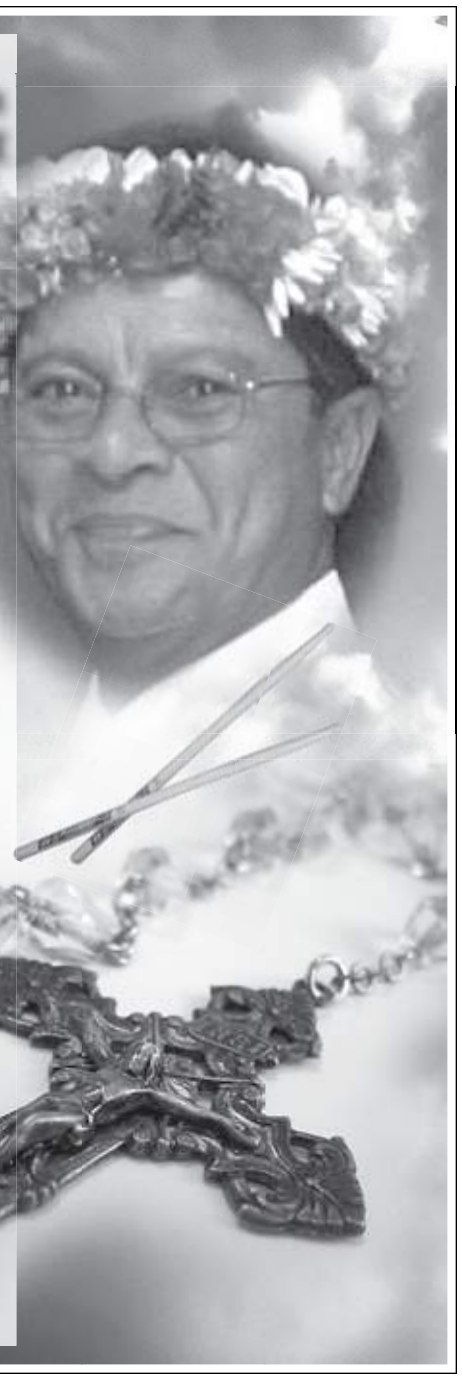
On September 30, 2009, At CHC chapel, viewing will start at 7:30 am followed by the Mass at 10:00 am. His remains will be escorted from CHC Chapel to Tanapag Cemetery at 11:00 am.

Your presence and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Wife and Children

In Celebration of His New Life

EDWARD MENDIOLA FLEMING



Born: October 1, 1957
Died: September 23, 2009, at the age of 51

In his new life, he now joins his:
Father: George Flores Fleming
Paternal Grandfather & Grandmother: Henry Gordon & Consolacion Flores Fleming
Maternal Grandfather & Grandmother: Joaquin M. & Dolores Sablan Mendiola
Former Parents In-Law: Francisco D. & Maria T. Flores
Sister: Linda Rose Mendiola Fleming

Survived by:
Mother: Juanita Mendiola Fleming
Children: James F. & Carol Fleming (Maria, Me'lia, Mia)
Shawn Flores Fleming
Bethany Jane Maritita
Kina Marie C. Sablan
Bernadette Audrey B. Fleming
Brothers & Sisters in-law: Donald/Susan Fleming & kids
Lawrence/Jane Fleming & family
George/Florence Fleming & family
William/Evelyn Fleming & family
Sisters & Brothers in-law: Evelyn F./Phillip David & family
Rhonda F./Felix Nogis & family
Cynthia F./Mark Zachares & kids
Vivian M. Fleming/Jesse San Nicolas & family
Alice M. Fleming & family
Tania F./Peter Mesa & kids
Former Wife: Margaret T. Flores
Special Friend: Sylvia SN. Borja

He will also be missed and remembered in the hearts of numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, godchildren and friends.

Daily mass is being offered at 6:00am and nightly Rosary is being said at 7:00 p.m. at the Mount Carmel Cathedral. Mass for christian burial will be on Thursday, October 1, 2009 at 10:30am also at the Mount Carmel Cathedral. More funeral details will be announced at a later time.

Your presence and prayers are greatly appreciated.
THE FAMILY

Life & Style

AP

Terry Herbert at Birmingham Museum, Birmingham, England, Thursday, Sept. 24, 2009, with a some of the 1,500 pieces which made up a Anglo-Saxon hoard found by Terry as he searched a field near his home with his metal detector.

Huge hoard of Anglo-Saxon treasure uncovered in UK

By RAPHAEL G. SATTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LONDON (AP)—It's an unprecedented find that could revolutionize ideas about medieval England's Germanic rulers: An amateur treasure-hunter searching a farmer's field with a metal detector unearthed a huge collection of Anglo-Saxon gold and silver artifacts.

The discovery sent a thrill through Britain's archaeological community, which said Thursday that it offers new insight into the world of the Anglo-Saxons, who ruled England from the fifth century until the 1066 Norman invasion and whose cultural influence is still felt throughout the English-speaking world.

"This is just a fantastic find completely out of the blue," Roger Bland, who managed the cache's excavation, told The Associated Press. "It will make us rethink the Dark Ages."

The treasure trove includes intricately designed helmet crests embossed with a frieze of running animals, enamel-studded sword fittings and a checkerboard piece inlaid with garnets and gold. One gold band bore a biblical inscription in Latin calling on God to drive away the bearer's enemies.

The Anglo-Saxons were a group of Germanic tribes who invaded England starting in the wake of the collapse of the Roman Empire. Their artisans made striking objects out of gold and enamel, and their language, Old English, is a precursor of modern English.

The cache of gold and silver pieces was discovered in what was once Mercia, one of five main Anglo-Saxon kingdoms, and is thought to date to between 675 and 725.

For Terry Herbert, the unemployed metal-detecting enthusiast who made the discovery on July 5 while scouring a friend's farm in the western region of Staffordshire, it was "more fun than winning the lottery."

The 55-year-old spent five days searching the field alone before he realized he needed help and notified authorities. Professional archaeologists then took over the find.

"I was going to bed and in my sleep I was seeing gold items," Herbert said of the experience.

The gold alone in the collection weighs 11 pounds and suggests that early medieval England was a far wealthier place than previously believed, according to Leslie Webster, the former curator of Anglo-Saxon archaeology at the British Museum.

She said the crosses and other religious artifacts mixed in with the military items might shed new light on the relationship between Christianity and warfare among the Anglo-Saxons—in particular a large cross she said may have been carried into battle.

The hoard was officially declared treasure by a coroner on Thursday, which means it will be valued by experts and offered up for sale to a museum in Britain. Proceeds will be split 50-50 between Herbert and his farmer friend, who has not been identified. The find's exact location is being kept secret to deter looters.

Bland said he could not give a precise figure for the value of the collection, but said the two could each be in line for a "seven-figure sum."

Kevin Leahy, the archaeologist who catalogued the find, said the stash includes dozens of pommel caps—decorative elements attached to the knobs of swords—and appeared to be war loot. He noted that "Beowulf," the Anglo-Saxon epic poem, contains a reference to warriors stripping the pommels of their enemies' weapons as mementoes.

"It looks like a collection of trophies, but it is impossible to say if the hoard was the spoils from a single battle or a long and highly successful military career," he said.

"We also cannot say who the original, or the final, owners were, who took it from them, why they buried it or when? It will be debated for decades."

Experts said they've so far examined a total of 1,345 items. But they've also recovered 56 pieces of earth that X-ray analysis suggests contain more artifacts—meaning the total could rise to about 1,500.

Quaid free on bail after arrest on Calif. warrant

DALLAS (AP)—Actor Randy Quaid and his wife were released from a West Texas jail late Thursday after their arrest for allegedly skipping out on a $10,000 California hotel bill. The pair posted bail after the sheriff provided a ride to a bank.

Quaid and his wife, Evi, each posted $20,000 after spending several hours in the jail in Marfa, Presidio County Sheriff Danny Dominguez told The Associated Press.

Dominguez said he drove the actor to a bank to obtain the bail money. Quaid remained in his custody during the trip but was not handcuffed. The sheriff said the actor received no special treatment.

"I like to help everybody out," Dominguez said. "It's a small town."

A felony warrant for burglary, defrauding an innkeeper and conspiracy was issued out of Santa Barbara, Calif., for Quaid and his wife after authorities received a complaint in early September that the couple had not paid a bill of more than $10,000 due to a local hotel, according to a release from the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department.

AP

Randy Quaid, left, and his wife Evi Quaid arrive for a special screening of "The Others" in this Aug. 7, 2001 file photo taken in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.

The warrant was issued after sheriff's detectives filed a case with the district attorney. Santa Barbara County sheriff's spokesman Drew Sugars said Thursday that detectives had not yet spoken with the actor and the department said it would not immediately release further details.

A message left for Randy Quaid's commercial agent, Steven Arcieri, was not immediately returned.

The Quaids were arrested Thursday afternoon after a deputy spotted the couple driving in Marfa, where they had been staying at a hotel, Dominguez said.

Evi Quad "resisted a little bit, it wasn't too much," the sheriff said. "She calmed down quickly."

Quaid won a Golden Globe Award and was nominated for an Emmy for his portrayal of President Lyndon Johnson in "LBJ: The Early Years"; but he's perhaps best known for his roles in the "National Lampoon's Vacation" movies, "Independence Day" and "Kingpin."

He also played a hard-nosed sheep rancher in "Brokeback Mountain," then sued Focus Features and the film's producers in 2006, claiming he was compelled to work cheaply when told the film—which earned $82 million at the domestic box office—had no prospects of making money.

Leona Lewis 'happily' ready for round 2

NEW YORK (AP)—Leona Lewis made a name for herself with her debut song "Bleeding Love," a soaring ballad that flew the 24-year-old to the top of the charts worldwide.

But the British pop singer says her sophomore CD "Echo" goes a step further, and is "full of big, emotional, dramatic songs."

"It's just really like big songs. The main thing is about the song and the melody," she said of the album, to be released Nov. 17.

"I don't have any songs on there that are just like, 'Yeah, yeah, yeah,'" she said in a whispery tone while bopping her head.

The first single, the gloomy-yet thumping "Happy," is one Lewis co-wrote with Ryan Tedder, the producer behind "Bleeding Love."

"It's a contradiction of song because, yes, it's named 'Happy,' but the song's kind of dark, a bit sad, somber," she said.

"In my songs I want people to go on a journey, and (to get to) happiness, you go through a lot of pain and sadness to get there sometimes and that's what we wanted to convey on the song," she added.

The new CD is also a departure for Lewis as she tackles more uptempo, dance songs, like "Outta My Head," written and produced by Max Martin (Pink, Backstreet Boys).

Lewis also teamed up with Ne-Yo, Justin Timberlake and John Shanks on the new CD.

"Echo" is the follow-up to Lewis' 2008 platinum-selling debut, "Spirit," which garnered three Grammy nominations, including record of the year for "Bleeding Love."

Lewis says she's happy now in her career and life—and ready for round two as an international singer.

"I'm just embarking on going back on the road and traveling and doing it again," she said.

Lawyer: Girlfriend of Jackson doc ends testimony

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The girlfriend of Michael Jackson's personal physician finished giving testimony before a grand jury in Los Angeles on Thursday, her lawyer said.

Joseph Low, the lawyer for Nicole Alvarez, said his client began testifying on Wednesday.

By law, he was not allowed to discuss what Alvarez was asked but said she had been cooperative in providing a statement.

Alvarez is the girlfriend of Dr. Conrad Murray, who is the subject of an investigation into Jackson's June 25 death, which has been classified as a homicide.

Murray told police he gave the pop superstar the powerful anesthetic propofol and other drugs in the hours before Jackson's death, court records state.

Murray's attorney has said the doctor didn't give Jackson anything that should have killed him.

Police searched the apartment of Alvarez last month, but Low said his client did not want to talk to investigators without a lawyer present. It took until this week for a spot to open up on the grand jury schedule.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Dunst serves as star witness in NYC burglary trial

NEW YORK (AP)—"Spider-Man" actress Kirsten Dunst has served as a star witness against a man charged in the theft of her designer purse from a New York City hotel suite while she was on a movie set. The 27-year-old Dunst on Thursday gave jurors a rundown of the August 2007 theft. She says she was filming the comedy "How to Lose Friends and Alienate People" at the SoHo Grand hotel when she discovered her $2,000 Balenciaga bag and its contents, including $2,000 in cash, were missing. The purse and her credit cards were eventually returned. Thirty-five-year-old James Jimenez is charged with burglary. His lawyer has pinned the blame on a co-defendant who pleaded guilty to attempted burglary.

'Housewives' actress Longoria back to school

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Eva Longoria Parker says she is going back to school to learn about her Mexican roots. The 34-year-old "Desperate Housewives" actress says she will enroll in a master's program in Chicano studies and political science. In its Mexico edition released Wednesday, Hola magazine quoted Longoria as saying that she wants to "learn more about the history of the country we come from." She didn't say what university she will attend. Longoria says she also is polishing her Spanish. The Texas native's family is originally from the northern Mexican city of Monterrey. The actress was in Mexico City last month to take on a Spanish-speaking role for the first time in a Mexican film about kidnapping titled "Days of Grace."

Too clean? Swayze once doubted 'Dirty Dancing'

NEW YORK (AP)—"Dirty Dancing" made Patrick Swayze a superstar, but when he first read the script, he found it a little clean. The actor, who died Sept. 14 of cancer, writes in his memoir, "It seemed fluffy—nothing more than a summer-camp movie." The memoir "The Time of My Life" comes out next week. Swayze's reaction was completely different about another future smash, "Ghost." He immediately wanted to be in it and persuaded Jerry Zucker to cast him despite the director's skepticism that Swayze could play a sensitive leading man. Swayze also remembered working with a then-little known Tom Cruise in Francis Coppola's adaptation of the young adult classic "The Outsiders." Cruise, Swayze said, was so "self-conscious about his teeth" that he resisted magazine photo shoots.

Venezuela to fine networks that air 'Family Guy'

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelan authorities plan to impose fines on cable television companies that refuse to stop airing the animated television series "Family Guy." Justice Minister Tareck El Aissami says the program should be pulled from the airwaves because it promotes the use of marijuana. El Aissami was outraged by a recent episode in which the show's characters started a campaign to legalize marijuana. He said Thursday that cable networks that broadcast "Family Guy" would be fined by Venezuela's telecommunications regulator if they refuse to dump the program. The government of President Hugo Chavez is preparing to impose new regulations on cable television. Among other rules, cable providers could be forced to carry Chavez's frequent speeches.

Classmate's criticism stuns smart student into silence

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm one of the smartest people in my seventh-grade class. Sometimes it's hard being that person. Once, when I was in fifth grade, someone came up to me and told me, "No offense, but I think you're a know-it-all." Let me tell you, that did not feel good!

What should I do? I know almost all the answers in class, but I don't want to answer because of what people will think. Please help me.

SMART SEVENTH-GRADER IN MICHIGAN

DEAR SMART SEVENTH-GRADER: Talk to your teacher and also your school counselor about your feelings. If you know all the answers in class, it's possible that you would qualify for advanced classes—or even for skipping a grade. Of course, your parents would have to agree, but it's worth a try.

One thing is certain, you should not refrain from participating to the fullest extent you can in class. And the classmate who called you a know-it-all in fifth grade was out of line.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My parents go to bed at 9 or 9:30, so they make my brother and me go to bed at the same time. I'm 13, and my brother is 17. I have no problem waking up in the morning, and I make good grades. So why do they insist on an early bedtime for us? Most of the kids in my grade have a bedtime of 10 to midnight. What are your feelings on this?

FRUSTRATED TEEN IN FLORIDA

DEAR FRUSTRATED TEEN: While most individuals have different biorhythms, I have read over the past few years that many people in this country are not getting enough sleep. This has a negative impact on their ability to concentrate, learn, drive and work efficiently. It can also affect the immune system. Regardless of what "most" of the kids in your grade are doing, your parents are doing what they feel is right for you and your brother.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am getting married next month. It's a first marriage for both of us, and I love "Evan" with all my heart. I'd do anything and everything for him—but I'm scared.

A few days ago, Evan said he wanted to move back the date of the wedding. It just about killed me. I thought maybe he didn't want to marry me, or he doesn't love me. He saw how badly I took the news and told me later that night that the wedding could go on as scheduled.

Abby, how do I know if Evan wants to marry me? What if he is doing it just so I won't be sad? I don't want him to marry me if he's not ready. Please help.

WORRIED BRIDE-TO-BE IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR WORRIED BRIDE-TO-BE: Tell Evan that you were shaken when he told you he wanted to postpone the wedding. Then tell him that if that's how he really feels, you agree it would be a good idea to wait. If he seems relieved, you will have your answer, and be glad you found out before you married him, not after.

However, if your fiance says he still wants the wedding to go on as planned, tell him that you'll agree only if he agrees to premarital counseling. It could avert any number of problems later. Trust me.

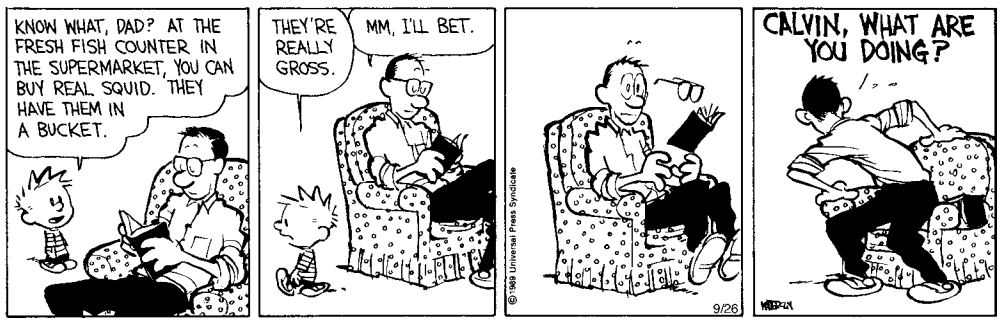
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


KNOW WHAT, DAD? AT THE FRESH FISH COUNTER IN THE SUPERMARKET, YOU CAN BUY REAL SQUID. THEY HAVE THEM IN A BUCKET.
THEY'RE REALLY GROSS.
MM, I'LL BET.
© 1989 Universal Press Syndicate
9/26
CALVIN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

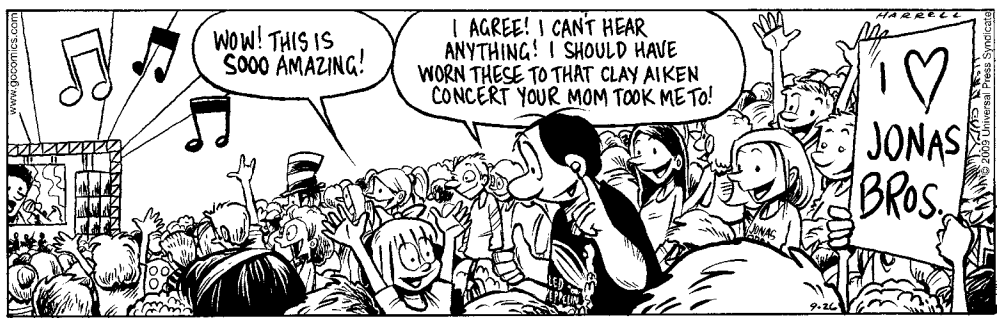
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

YESSIREE, I AM IN A GOOD MOOD...
www.garfield.com
JIM DAVIS 9-26
© 2009 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
AND NOT EVEN YOU CAN SPOIL MY DAY, YOU FAT SLOB!
Distributed by Universal Uclick for Universal Press Syndicate
...LARRY WENT WITH A SMILE ON HIS LIPS AND THE COMICS SECTION ON HIS FACE

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


www.gocomics.com
WOW! THIS IS SOOO AMAZING!
I AGREE! I CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING! I SHOULD HAVE WORN THESE TO THAT CLAY AIKEN CONCERT YOUR MOM TOOK ME TO!
HARRELL
I ♡ JONAS BROS.
9-26
© 2009 Universal Press Syndicate

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

HOW ARE THINGS GOING WITH YOU AND YOUR NEW GIRLFRIEND?
SHE TOOK MY SIX-PACK OF LOVE AND LEFT ME WITH THE BACKWASH OF HURTIN'.
Glenn McCoy
I THINK YOU'RE LISTENING TO TOO MUCH COUNTRY MUSIC.
© Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Tibetan monk
5 Wile E.'s supplier
9 Ram's ma'am
12 Ms. Brockovich
13 Glimpse
14 Chinese tea
15 Pinion
16 Sported
17 Towel designation
18 Appointment
19 Suitable
20 Nap
21 Nonclerical
23 Gorilla
25 Arts' mates
28 Flood barriers
32 Hair-related
33 Muralist Rivera
34 Bloomer or Earhart
36 Immature
37 "CSI" site
38 Model Carol
39 Ergo
42 Perched
44 October stone
48 Chick's mama
49 "I Am Sam" star
50 Law firm aide, for short
51 Sternward
52 Con
53 A very long time
54 "Who am — argue?"
55 Dance lesson
56 "OK"

DOWN

1 Smutty
2 Bocelli rendition
3 Julep tang
4 Tourist attraction in Venezuela
5 Incessantly
6 Place for 48-Across
7 Human
8 — out a living
9 Reverberate
10 Expert
11 Relaxation
20 Severe consequences
22 Places in the heart
24 Go by bike
25 IRS employee
26 Edge
27 Brewery product
29 Moray, e.g.
30 Id counterpart
31 Spread seeds
35 Missing
36 Tabby temptation
39 Popular Asian cuisine
40 Weight
41 "Do — others ..."
43 Initial stake
45 Contact on a beeper
46 Vicinity
47 Whip
49 — de deux

Solution time: 27 mins.

I	D	S	■	P	R	O	W	■	B	A	S	H
T	O	Y	■	E	I	R	E	■	O	G	E	E
O	H	M	Y	W	O	R	D	■	L	O	R	E
■	■	P	O	E	T	■	■	L	E	G	A	L
S	P	O	K	E	■	G	R	A	Y	■	■	■
M	U	S	E	■	G	O	O	D	N	E	S	S
U	R	I	■	B	L	O	W	S	■	N	E	E
G	R	A	C	I	O	U	S	■	S	T	A	G
■	■	■	D	E	B	T	■	C	A	I	R	O
S	H	I	R	R	■	■	B	U	R	R	■	■
T	A	C	O	■	D	E	A	R	I	E	M	E
I	T	E	M	■	O	A	K	S	■	L	O	L
R	E	D	S	■	T	R	E	E	■	Y	A	M

Yesterday's answer 9-26

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	■	9	10	11
12				■	13				■	14		
15				■	16				■	17		
18				■	19			■	20			
■	■	■	21	22		■	23	24		■	■	■
25	26	27				■	28			29	30	31
32					■	■	■	33				
34					35	■	36					
■	■	■	37			■	38			■	■	■
39	40	41		■	42	43		■	44	45	46	47
48			■	49				■	50			
51			■	52					53			
54			■	55				■	56			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Christina Milian, 28; Serena Williams, 28; Shawn Stockman, 37; James Caviezel, 41

Happy Birthday: Focus on home and family. It's your turn to develop, excel and reach your goals. There is money to be made if you believe in yourself and your ideas. Your intense determination will pay off and set you up for a lifestyle change. You can gain respect and admiration from the people who count by finishing what you start. Your numbers are 4, 10, 17, 22, 26, 38, 43

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Your temper will flare up if you get into a discussion with someone who opposes you. Don't let your emotions get the better of you. Throw yourself into something tangible that will bring positive results instead of arguing. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): A trip that includes pleasure and acquiring knowledge will help you socially and professionally. Romance is looking good so include someone you care for in your plans or be open and receptive to meeting someone new. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Your heart is in the right place and the ideas you have will help out someone in need. Be careful not to give to something that you know little about. A wrong move on your part will be costly and could make you look bad. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You'll get pegged as flighty and hard to please if you are pushy or make a fuss over someone or something. Relax and you will make a far better impression. Compromising will keep the peace and add to your success. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You have a lot to consider regarding your financial and professional future. A good friend or mentor will be able to help you with a tough decision. A move may be required in order to fulfill your dreams. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You can make your move and be successful. Make whatever you do fun and you will attract attention and participants. A social gathering will be conducive to meeting people who have something to offer you. Financial freedom can be yours. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Let your instincts guide you. Keep an eye on the people in your life who are waiting and watching for you to make a mistake. Avoid travel or making a hasty move that can lead to an irreversible mishap. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You have spent a lot of time mulling over the facts, figures and opportunities to mix what you've discovered with what you already know. You can make a quality decision that should bring in some cash. Good fortune is heading your way. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You have to give more thought to your plans before you make your move. There are more obstacles than you realize. Don't let anyone force you to move ahead before you are ready or it will be costly. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Think matters through and take action and you will have a flawless and engaging impact on a situation you have been struggling with. Your hard work will lead to success, respect and the help you will require to take your plans to the next level. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You may want to partner up for the things you are planning to do. There is strength in numbers and you can use all the help you can get. Use your knowledge to convince someone who can contribute positively to your cause. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Networking will lead to a partnership that is valuable in terms of connections, finances and skills. Romance is apparent. Good things are about to happen. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a leader and a humanitarian. You are strong-willed, possessive and determined to reach your goals. You have clarity and sound judgment.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	1			8			6	
6			4			7		
		2			3			9
	3			6			7	
1						5		
		7			4			6
	7			4			3	
9			1			2		
		3			8			7

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	2	1	9	4	8	5	7	3
4	3	5	7	6	1	8	9	2
7	9	8	5	2	3	4	1	6
3	5	7	6	1	2	9	8	4
9	8	6	4	3	5	7	2	1
1	4	2	8	7	9	6	3	5
8	7	3	1	5	6	2	4	9
5	1	9	2	8	4	3	6	7
2	6	4	3	9	7	1	5	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/25

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE WORLD'S TOUGHEST TURTLES **Solution: 5 letters**

C J K C R Y P T O D I R A G G
B E A C H E S G G E T R U N K
E L P N I O D I V I N G I I D
L L U H I H R T L A S L M P A
C Y I B A M T D E E D E A P D
R F R T B L A C A D L A T A I
I I N E P E O L A T T T U L N
C S S E H E R P I R A H R F I
C H E W S T R E O A S E A U R
I H H O H T A P D D G R A Y T
T T C R S S I E O L S B R Y O
C E T P W C (B) N L N O A E L M
R E O A S (O) E L G L D C T I I
A T L A (N) T I C N E C K A O U
S C B (E) L B I X E L F S W I M

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Animalia, Arctic Circle, Atlantic, Beaches, Blotches, Blubber, Bone, Cephalopods, Chordata, Claws, Colder, Cryptodira, Diving, Eggs, Flapping, Flexible, Gray, Jellyfish, Leatherback, Leathery, Matura, Neck, Nesting, Ocean, Oily, Paddling, Pond, Prow, Reptile, Salt, Spots, Swim, Teeth, Thick, Tomium, Trinidad, Tropics, Trunk, Turtle, Water

Yesterday s Answer: Flavor

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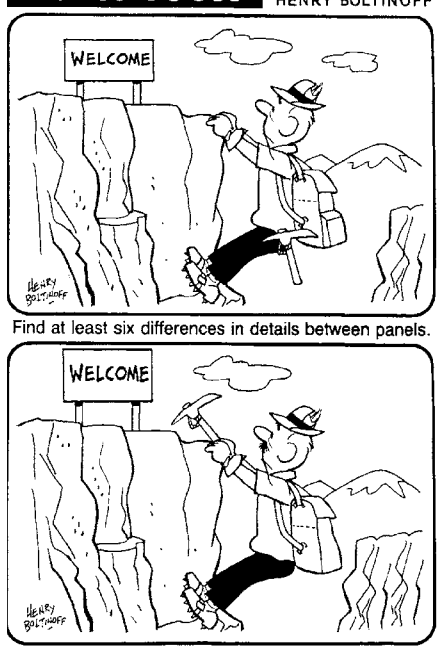
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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Differences: 1. Cloud is missing. 2. Pick has been moved. 3. Man has mustache. 4. Sign is bigger. 5. Rock on right is wider. 6. Backpack pocket is missing

Wishing Well®

7	6	5	7	2	6	5	2	5	4	8	7	6
D	B	N	A	P	E	O	L	T	W	E	R	D
7	4	6	3	4	7	4	6	8	3	2	5	4
I	A	E	N	R	N	M	T	X	E	E	H	F
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W	A	E	G	T	I	I	S	E	N	E	R	U
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C	U	N	N	E	I	G	P	T	N	G	D	S
4	3	5	6	5	3	2	3	2	8	5	3	6
S	S	Y	E	O	S	R	D	E	A	U	A	D
8	2	3	8	3	2	3	8	2	8	3	8	8
Y	A	W	C	N	M	E	H	S	E	D	C	K

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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Super Crossword

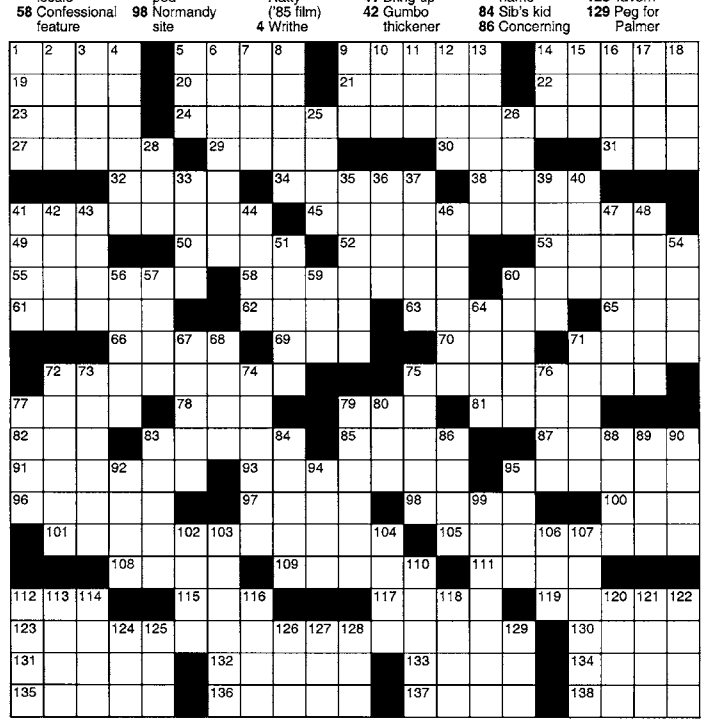
WRITE RIGHT

ACROSS

1 Trails
5 It's a long story
9 Photographer Arbus
14 Opposite
19 Tigris-Euphrates land
20 King of comedy
21 Maestro Dorati
22 "— Gay"
23 Waiter's offering
24 Waiting room sign?
27 "— Room" ('02 film)
29 Platonic character
30 Do Little work?
31 Political abbr.
32 Punjabi prince
34 Throbbed
38 "Git, Garfield!"
41 Tour The Eternal City?
45 Mr. Ed?
49 Med. test
50 Sometimes it's sweet
52 Stumble
53 Kindled anew
55 Lawrence's locale
58 Confessional feature
60 With 9 Down, "Reeling in the Years" rockers
61 Less available
62 Bear's advice
63 Proclamations
65 Snug spot
66 Pack the freight
69 — Alamos, NM
70 Overly
71 Screenwriter James
72 Has-been actor?
75 Nasty attitude?
77 "Wild Child" singer
78 Bird's beak
79 "Hurrah!"
81 Balloon material?
82 Novelist Amy
83 Tacitus' tongue
85 Sicilian rumbler
87 Soprano Mitchell
91 Kilauea, for one
93 Nogales naps
95 Pollux's twin
96 Maugham's "Of — Bondage"
97 ". . . — in a pod"
98 Normandy site
100 Flat hat
101 Poison alert?
105 Gush?
108 "Are you — out?"
109 Macabre
111 Harmony
112 Mister, in Madras
115 Appreciated, in the '50s
117 Unwind a rind
119 Loser to Truman
123 Kvetched together?
130 Heart burn?
131 Black piano key
132 Make Fido fetch
133 Siegmeister or Wiesel
134 Hurler Hershiser
135 New Hampshire campus
136 Red Sea nation
137 Figure of interest?
138 Swiss sharpshooter

DOWN

1 Like a wet noodle
2 Precinct
3 "The Journey of Natty —" ('85 film)
4 Writhe
5 Sweet stuff
6 Helen Keller's birthplace
7 Corral feature
8 A Pointer sister
9 See 60 Across
10 Business abbr.
11 Demolished a Danish
12 Oenophile's mecca
13 Slip by
14 I.M. the architect
15 TV's "— Step Beyond"
16 Protracted
17 Choir member
18 Kind of file
25 Apiece
26 Part of M.I.T.
28 Subway unit
33 Spanish dance
35 Resort features
36 Viscount's better
37 Like a raisin
39 It comes from the heart
40 "Lemon —" ('65 hit)
41 Bring up
42 Gumbo thickener
43 John of "Fort Apache"
44 Lodge brothers
46 Ariel, for instance
47 Singer Percy
48 Heckart or Brennan
51 Mournful sound
54 Actress Daly
56 Politician Abzug
57 "Dies —"
59 "Xanadu" rockers
60 Sharon of "Sliver"
64 Stocking stuffer?
67 Iranian currency
68 Correct a text
71 Hospital employees
72 Stagnating
73 Go-getter
74 San Luis —, CA
75 Feathered yakkers
76 Actress Powers
77 Decorate glass
79 Military response
80 ABA member
83 October Revolution name
84 Sib's kid
86 Concerning
88 "Beetle Bailey" bulldog
89 Genesis patriarch
90 "Babes in —" ('37 musical)
92 '72 Harry Chapin hit
94 Vacation sensation
95 Tearoom item
99 Blows one's cool
102 Affirmative actions?
103 Reliable
104 Puppy bites
106 Remnant
107 It's spotted at zoos
110 Avid
112 Pierre's st.
113 Widespread
114 Land in the sea
116 Richard of "The Cotton Club"
118 Actress Lenska
120 Sported
121 Daredevil Knievel
122 Scream
124 Pantry item
125 Multipurpose vehicle
126 Create a reservoir
127 Mozart's "— Zauberflote"
128 Tavern
129 Peg for Palmer



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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. TELEVISION: What was the opening theme song from the comedy variety show "Sonny & Cher"?
2. MOVIES: What was the name of the scene-stealing cat in the movie "Bell, Book and Candle"?
3. MEDICAL: What is the more common diagnosis for rhinorrhea?
4. GEOGRAPHY: What are the names of the four U.S. states whose corner borders meet in one point?
5. COMICS: What is the name of Snoopy's bird friend in "Peanuts"?
6. LITERATURE: Who wrote "The Maltese Falcon"?
7. PERSONALITIES: What is the size of basketball star Shaquille O'Neal's shoes?
8. INVENTIONS: In what year was Velcro invented?
9. AD SLOGANS: What cereal is known as the "Breakfast of Champions"?
10. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What was the name of the car driven by Speed Racer?

Answers

1. "The Beat Goes On"
2. Pyewacket
3. Runny nose
4. Colorado, Arizona, Utah and New Mexico
5. Woodstock
6. Dashiell Hammett
7. 23
8. 1941
9. Wheaties
10. Mach 5

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Saturday's Answers

C	A	M	E	L		C	A	N	E		T	E	D		G	R	E	E	K
L	L	A	M	A		A	V	O	W		L	A	R	D		V	E	R	N	E
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P	A	S	T	O	R		R	O	G	E	T		D	A	M	E				
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U	T	E	R	O		E	G	A	D		W	A	I	T		H	A	B	I	T
E	E	R	I	E		O	U	T		O	N	L	Y		E	L	I	S	E	

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

FOR MY REPORT I WILL BE TELLING YOU ALL ABOUT THOMAS EDISON
FOR MY REPORT I WILL BE TALKING ABOUT BETSY ROSS.
FOR MY REPORT I WILL BE EDUCATING YOU ABOUT MY UNCLE LOU.
OK, DESPITE WHAT UNCLE LOU MIGHT THINK, HE'S NOT THAT BIG OF A DEAL!
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The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

GRANDMA, SOMEBODY SAID THAT YOU HAVE A GREEN THUMB!
YES, THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY.
MAYBE SHE SHOULD WASH HER HANDS ONCE IN AWHILE.
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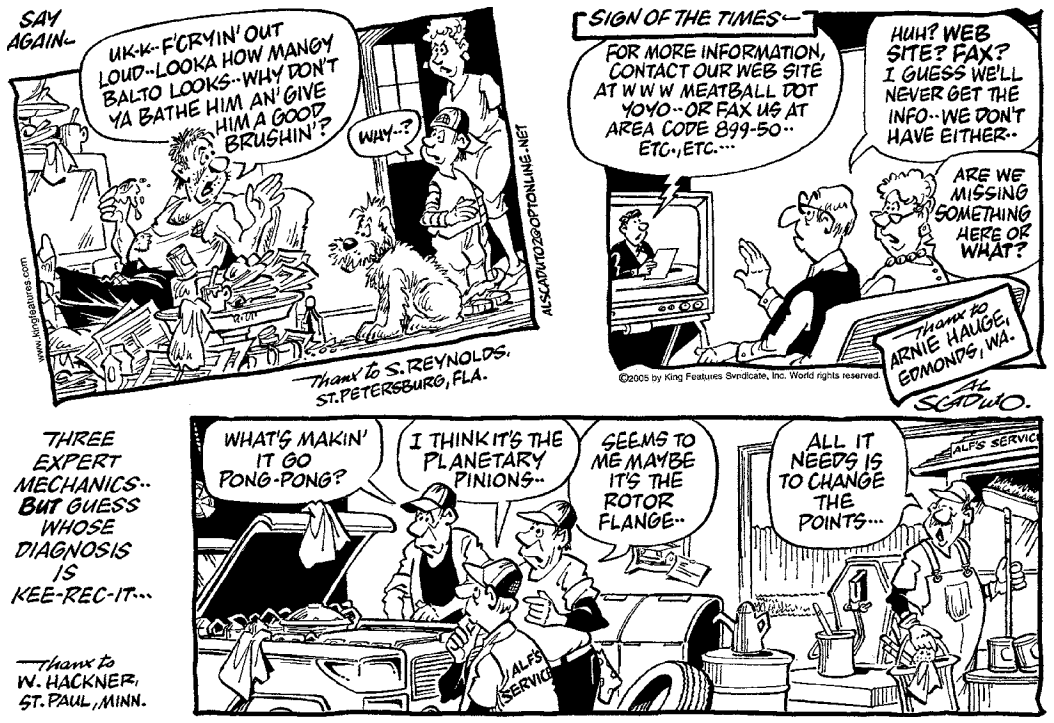
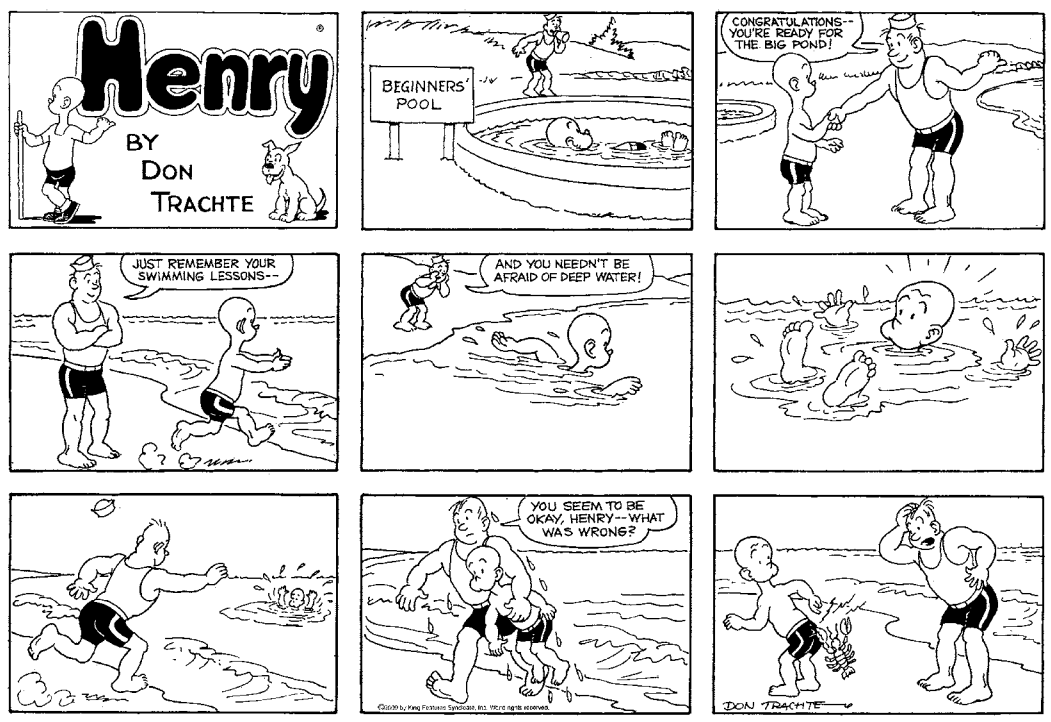
They'll Do It Every Time

by Al Scaduto


SAY AGAIN--
UK-K--F'CRYIN' OUT LOUD--LOOKA HOW MANGY BALTO LOOKS--WHY DON'T YA BATHE HIM AN' GIVE HIM A GOOD BRUSHIN'?
WHY--?
Thanx to S. REYNOLDS, ST. PETERSBURG, FLA.
SIGN OF THE TIMES--
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT OUR WEB SITE AT W W W MEATBALL DOT YOYO--OR FAX US AT AREA CODE 899-50-- ETC.-,ETC.---
HUH? WEB SITE? FAX? I GUESS WE'LL NEVER GET THE INFO--WE DON'T HAVE EITHER--
ARE WE MISSING SOMETHING HERE OR WHAT?
Thanx to ARNIE HAUGE, EDMONDS, WA.
©2005 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
THREE EXPERT MECHANICS-- BUT GUESS WHOSE DIAGNOSIS IS KEE-REC-IT---
Thanx to W. HACKNER, ST. PAUL, MINN.
WHAT'S MAKIN' IT GO PONG-PONG?
I THINK IT'S THE PLANETARY PINIONS--
SEEMS TO ME MAYBE IT'S THE ROTOR FLANGE--
ALL IT NEEDS IS TO CHANGE THE POINTS---
ALF'S SERVICE


Henry
BY DON TRACHTE
BEGINNERS' POOL
CONGRATULATIONS-- YOU'RE READY FOR THE BIG POND!
JUST REMEMBER YOUR SWIMMING LESSONS--
AND YOU NEEDN'T BE AFRAID OF DEEP WATER!
YOU SEEM TO BE OKAY, HENRY--WHAT WAS WRONG?
DON TRACHTE

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	**$25**
• 5-Liner	**$35**
• 3-Liner with picture	**$45**
• 5-Liner with picture	**$55**

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

CHAIR
PLANK

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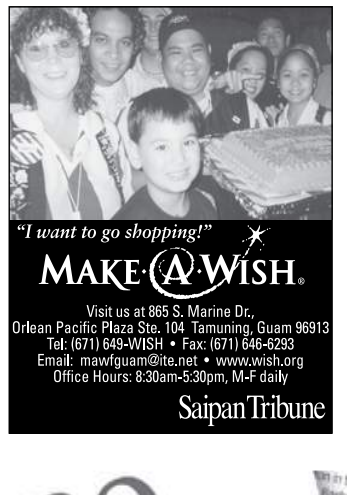
Looking for Used Car, Good running condition. We pay CASH! Please call 287-7676.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Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

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Oceanview & Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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235- NEWS

100 losses and counting: Dodgers top Nationals 7-6

WASHINGTON (AP)—Rafael Furcal hit a go-ahead homer in the eighth inning Thursday as the Los Angeles Dodgers beat Washington 7-6 to hand the Nationals their 100th loss of the season.

Furcal's drive off Ron Villone (4-6) was his fourth hit of the game. Ramon Troncoso (5-4) pitched 1 1-3 innings to get the win, and Jonathan Broxton finished for his 36th save.

The win reduced the Dodgers' magic number to one for clinching a National League playoff berth.

The Nationals, who were 59-102 last season, are the first NL franchise to lose 100 games in consecutive seasons since the San Diego Padres, who dropped 102 in both 1973 and 1974.

AP

Los Angeles Dodgers' shortstop Rafael Furcal (15) celebrates in front of Dodgers fans, after he hit a home run during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Washington Nationals, Thursday, Sept. 24, 2009, in Washington.

Cubs 3, Giants 2

At San Francisco, Jeff Baker hit a two-out, two-run home run in the top of the ninth inning as Chicago staved off elimination in the NL Central for a day by handing San Francisco a blow to its postseason hopes.

Had the Cubs lost, the St. Louis Cardinals would have clinched the Central. The Cardinals on Friday begins a three-game series against the NL wild card-leading Rockies, who lead the Braves by 3 1/2 games with San Francisco and Florida four behind. The Cubs trail Colorado by 6 1/2 games with 10 to play.

Brian Wilson (5-6) walked Derrek Lee to open the inning but got Micah Hoffpauir and Mike Fontenot on infield popups before Baker hit his fourth home run.

Padres 5, Rockies 4

At Denver, Nick Hundley homered to start the comeback and drove in the tiebreaking run with an eighth-inning single off Rafael Betancourt as San Diego dealt the NL wild card-leading Colorado a disheartening loss.

The Rockies' cushion in the wild-card race was trimmed to 3 1/2 games over idle Atlanta, and the San Francisco Giants had a chance to cut their deficit to three games. They played the Chicago Cubs on the West Coast on Thursday night.

Phillies 9, Brewers 4

At Milwaukee, Jimmy Rollins capped a six-run fifth inning with a three-run homer and Ryan Howard drove in two runs to help Philadelphia rookie J.A. Happ earn his 11th win.

Pedro Feliz had three hits, scored twice and drove in a run for Philadelphia, who amassed 14 hits and reduced their magic number to clinch the NL East to four.

Howard came into the game an RBI behind Prince Fielder, who entered with 131, for the major league lead, but he drove in Chase Utley with two outs in the first and added another in the eighth.

Fielder hit a run-scoring grounder in the bottom of the ninth to tie the sluggers at 132.

Happ (11-4) tied Randy Wells of the Chicago Cubs for the most victories by a rookie.

Reds 4, Pirates 1

At Pittsburgh, Bronson Arroyo limited Pittsburgh to one run over seven innings as Cincinnati completed their second sweep of the plummeting Pirates in less than a month.

Joey Votto had a two-run double following Drew Sutton's RBI double in a four-run third inning against Charlie Morton (4-9) as the Reds won their eighth in a row against the last-place Pirates.

Arroyo (14-13) allowed five hits, walked one and struck out four. Francisco Cordero worked the ninth for his 39th save in 43 opportunities.

Tigers 6, Indians 5

At Cleveland, Justin Verlander pitched the Detroit Tigers closer to a division title and pushed the Cleveland Indians within one loss of matching a franchise record for futility with a win in the American League on Thursday.

Verlander (17-9) struck out 11 in seven innings and Carlos Guillen had three hits and an RBI as the Tigers handed Cleveland its 11th straight loss. The Indians haven't dropped 11 in a row since setting a club record with 12 consecutive losses in 1931.

With the win, Detroit moved three games ahead of the idle Minnesota Twins in the AL's Central Division.

Carlos Carrasco (0-3) gave up four runs in five innings.

Red Sox 10, Royals 3

At Kansas City, Missouri, David Ortiz homered and drove in three runs, and Clay Buchholz took a shutout into the seventh inning to help Boston trounce Kansas City and move closer to the postseason.

Jacoby Ellsbury had four hits and two RBIs, Victor Martinez extended his hitting streak to 23 games and Dustin Pedroia pushed his to 16 games, lowering Boston's magic number for clinching the AL wild card to three.

Royals starter Anthony Lerew (0-1) had a solid return to the majors. Back from Tommy John surgery, the right-hander Lerew allowed two earned runs—four total—on seven hits in 4 2-3 innings.

Athletics 12, Rangers 3

At Oakland, California, Jack Cust homered to help rookie Brett Anderson win his fourth straight start and Cliff Pennington hit a two-run triple as Oakland salvaged a split of a four-game series against Texas.

Anderson (11-10), who has struggled for run support much of the year, allowed three runs, one earned, and six hits in 5 2-3 innings. He improved to 8-3 over his last 16 starts.

Mariners 5, Blue Jays 4

At Toronto, Felix Hernandez had a season-high 11 strikeouts and Josh Wilson hit a tiebreaking two-run triple in the eighth inning as Seattle edged Toronto.

Hernandez (17-5) allowed four runs, three earned, and seven hits in eight innings to improve to 5-0 with a 1.57 ERA in his last six starts.

Franklin Gutierrez hit a two-run homer for Seattle, which has won six of eight.

Wilson gave the Mariners a 5-3 lead with a two-out triple to right off left-hander Jesse Carlson (1-6), scoring Adrian Beltre and Bill Hall.

A Russian owner in NBA: Tycoon buying NJ Nets

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Could the New Jersey Nets become the Nyets?

The basketball team once known as the New Jersey Americans is a step closer to being owned by Russia's richest man, Mikhail Prokhorov, who on Wednesday said he has a deal to buy 80 percent of the NBA team and nearly half of a project to build a new arena in Brooklyn.

The proposed blockbuster deal would give the Nets' current principal owner, Bruce Ratner, the needed cash to move forward with the centerpiece of his Atlantic Yards development, which includes plans for retail and residential projects.

It would make Prokhorov, a Russian billionaire and former amateur basketball player, the NBA's first non-North American owner.

It would mean the Nets really do seem headed to Brooklyn, a New York City borough without a major pro sports franchise since baseball's Dodgers decamped for Los Angeles in 1957.

And it would be a sign the NBA is serious about building a worldwide identity. Commissioner David Stern immediately praised the deal, saying it will help the NBA expand its reach and would ensure that the Nets, who play in the aging Izod Center in East Rutherford, will have a state-of-the-art arena.

"Interest in basketball and the NBA is growing rapidly on a global basis, and we are especially encouraged by Mr. Prokhorov's commitment to the Nets and the opportunity it presents to continue the growth of basketball in Russia," Stern said in a statement.

Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban, too, is ready to welcome Prokhorov to the NBA.

"I love it. I think he will bring fresh ideas and viewpoints, and hopefully this will be the start of a trend towards international investors," Cuban said in an e-mail to The Associated Press. "Plus, I took Russian in high school, so it will give me a chance to refresh."

Stern has long touted the NBA's international reach, proudly boasting that two-thirds of the players on the medals podium at the Beijing Olympics were NBA players. The league plays preseason games in Europe and China, and its All-Star and NBA finals games have been televised in hundreds of countries.

In going global, Stern could be welcoming quite a globetrotter.

Prokhorov, who is 6-foot-6 and was an avid basketball player in his school days, is a fixture in glitzy European resorts and once was held in France for four days of questioning—but never charged—in a prostitution investigation. Even in Russia, he raises eyebrows for his penchant for private jets and a gorgeous entourage. A 2007 TV commercial for a Russian juice company lampooned him, although it did not name him.

Prokhorov's love of the high life is rivaled by his devotion to basketball. He owns a share of the Russian team CSKA Moscow, and he said on his blog he wants to buy the Nets partly to get access to NBA training methods and help Russian coaches get internships in the league.

Russia has a proud basketball tradition, having won the Euro championship in 2007, and CSKA is a perennial Euroleague power. Yet Andrei Kirilenko, a Utah Jazz forward, is the only Russian currently in the NBA.

It remains to be seen how Prokhorov's jet-setting lifestyle might play with Nets fans, but the NBA will be far more interested in his finances. Prokhorov has been ranked as his country's richest man in the Russian edition of Forbes, with an estimated $9.5 billion—even after shrinking by some $7 billion in the world economic crisis.

He weathered the financial storm by cashing out some lucrative assets before the downturn battered commodity markets.

Another rich Russian oligarch, Roman Abramovich, is the owner of the British soccer power Chelsea. Uzbekistan-born billionaire Alisher Usmanov owns more than 25 percent of another British soccer team, Arsenal.

"In any sport nowadays, if you can bring someone in who is financially stable, it is great for the sport, and I think it will be great for the NBA," former player and current TV analyst Charles Barkley said. "If he's going to do some work on the building and not take advantage of the fans, that's great for the city."

The franchise started with the ABA in 1967 as the Americans and then the Nets, bouncing around to different arenas in New Jersey and New York before settling in East Rutherford in 1981-82.

It's not clear how Brooklyn's sports fans, who have nursed their wounded pride ever since the Dodgers left, might take to a team with foreign ownership.

There's already been community grumbling over the British bank Barclays buying the naming rights to the arena—and also the rights to name the subway station beneath it.

Brooklyn's famed Russian enclave of Brighton Beach is only a few miles from the proposed arena, but for many Russian emigrants Prokhorov symbolizes everything wrong in their homeland—a smooth operator who made a fortune when Russia sold off its state industrial treasures for a song.

Nets president Rod Thorn said he expects little reaction about a Russian owner: "I don't think players really care who owns the team."

Los Angeles Lakers guard Derek Fisher, who also is president of the NBA players' association, said the deal "speaks to the fact there's something that potential ownership groups still see about the NBA that is good because you wouldn't have anybody—European, Russian, American—buying into an NBA team at this point if they didn't see something that was a positive for them to get out of the deal."s

No Jessica, no TO but still INTs for Romo

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Tony Romo had the perfect opportunity to show everyone how much he's changed, how he's calmer and more disciplined without Jessica Simpson and Terrell Owens in his life.

Instead, in front of an NFL-record crowd of 105,121 and the league's largest prime-time television audience in 12 years, Romo gave a convincing performance that he still throws too many passes to guys who don't play for the Dallas Cowboys.

In the debut of the $1.15 billion Cowboys Stadium, Romo threw three passes that were caught by members of the New York Giants. The first was returned for a touchdown, and the Giants also scored TDs off the other two.

Those were New York's only touchdowns in a 33-31 victory that ruined a big night for team owner Jerry Jones, wasted Dallas' best rushing total since Emmitt Smith's heyday and dealt the Cowboys an early setback in what's likely to be a tough NFC East race.

Romo blamed himself right after the game and vowed to get better. How? That's hard to say because he deferred his usual Wednesday chat with local media until Thursday, then on Thursday walked through the locker room, saw reporters waiting for him and headed to the training room for the rest of the interview period.

On a conference call Thursday with media covering the Carolina Panthers, Romo said every quarterback has to learn how to bounce back and that the Cowboys are committed to playing better.

"If you play the game long enough, you realize you're lying to yourself if you think you can play 16 weeks of great football," Romo said. "That is unrealistic. I don't care who you are. I'm still waiting to see one guy do it for a full year.

"When you do play poorly, you have to recommit to what you are doing, prepare diligently and then go execute like no one's business."

Teammates have come to Romo's defense all week, insisting they remain confident and pointing to the previous game, when he opened the post-T.O. era by throwing touchdowns of more than 40 yards to three different receivers and piling up a career-best 353 yards with no turnovers in a victory at Tampa Bay.

But that's the thing about Romo—he can be the reason the Cowboys win one week and the reason they lose the next, an inconsistency that was supposed to be settled by the emphasis on avoiding turnovers. Last year, he had 21 in 13 games, with only a single turnover-free game.

That's why Romo's performance against the Giants revived the bigger question of whether he can turn Dallas into a championship team.

He is 0-2 in the playoffs and has failed to come through in other big games, especially last December when the Cowboys were trying to make the playoffs and didn't. While this game was only Week 2, it carried more weight than usual and came with the backdrops of Romo supposedly having spent the offseason training himself to avoid messes like this and Jones having spent the offseason making the team more "Romo-friendly."

Hall of Fame running back Tony Dorsett is among the Cowboys fans who came away from the Giants game wondering if Romo can be trusted.

"I don't know why on God's earth Tony Romo has been anointed a superstar in the National Football League," Dorsett told Fox Sports Radio this week. "Quarterbacks in the National Football League, most of them, go through this growing curve. He hasn't gone through that growing curve, but he was anointed this great player all of a sudden.

"Now he's having to live up to that. And obviously Tony has some deficiencies. ... I think the media has given him too much credit for doing nothing."

Former Cowboys quarterback Troy Aikman keeps a close eye on Romo as an analyst for Fox and as someone with close ties to the organization, including a strong relationship with Romo's boss, offensive coordinator Jason Garrett. He also understands better than anyone the challenges that come with this job, perhaps the most-scrutinized in pro sports.

"Everyone overreacts to everything," Aikman said. "I know Tony understands that. So I don't question that he'll bounce back and he'll play well and he'll have a great year like we've seen from him so many other times. ...

"I always make the point that there's high expectations for this franchise, but this franchise wouldn't have those expectations if Tony Romo wasn't the quarterback. Prior to him taking over as quarterback, I don't know that the expectations were very high. I'm not saying that he or anyone else shouldn't be held accountable, but I think it speaks to what he's meant to this team."

As Romo's good friend, tight end Jason Witten knows how hard the quarterback has worked to improve. Everyone on the club has seen it, which is why Witten believes this locker room—this T.O.-free locker room—will give Romo the benefit of the doubt.

"To the guys in the room, it's not just talk," Witten said. "They really, really know it was just one game. You can tell the emphasis he's made and you know the abilities he has. ... I do believe everybody is behind him. Absolutely."

Of course, it comes down to more than beliefs. It's about performance, starting with another prime-time TV game at Cowboys Stadium, this time against Carolina on Monday night.

"Actions are going to speak louder than words," Witten said. "Hold that judgment and see where he's at four, five weeks from now."

AP

Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo (9) walks off the field following their NFL football game against the New York Giants, Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009, in Arlington, Texas.

O'Hair takes 1-shot lead over Woods, others

ATLANTA (AP)—Sean O'Hair knew he would need some help from Tiger Woods to win the FedEx Cup. He got more than he expected.

And it was about putting, not points.

Woods and O'Hair practiced together on the back nine at East Lake on the eve of the Tour Championship, and O'Hair sought some advice on his putting from the world's No. 1 player, regarded as among the best in golf with the putter.

Woods suggested that O'Hair open the face of the club on the way back so that he could release the blade through the ball. It paid off Thursday when O'Hair made enough putts for a 4-under 66 and a one-shot lead over three players—including Woods.

"I'm going to go chew him out right now," Woods said.

Woods was joking, for it is typical in this sport for players to help each other even as they're tried to beat each other. O'Hair is the first to concede that his putting has held him back in his five years on tour, and he wasn't afraid to ask.

"I believe in what he said, and I think it's the key for me to kind of take my putting to another level," O'Hair said. "Getting advice like that from good players is obviously awesome, but getting it from basically the greatest of all time is pretty cool.

"I mean, I'm his competition, for him to help me out like he did was very classy, I thought."

The tip didn't take overnight, but it was good enough on greens that were far more firm than any of the 30-man field could have imagined after so much rain in Atlanta over the last week.

Woods recovered from a shaky start with three birdies over a four-hole stretch on the back nine for a 67, putting him one shot behind with Padraig Harrington and British Open champion Stewart Cink.

Only eight players managed to break par in the final FedEx Cup playoff event, with a $10 million bonus going to the winner. O'Hair is the No. 7 seed, meaning he would have to win the Tour Championship and have Woods finish in a three-way tie for second or worse.

So far, so good. And so much golf left to be played.

THE TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP

O'Hair could only imagine what it would be like to try out his putting tip on the 18th green Sunday with a chance to go home with $11.35 million, the combined earnings of the FedEx Cup and Tour Championship.

"If I do have that opportunity, I hope I have a five-shot lead," he said.

Woods doesn't regret giving O'Hair the putting advice.

"It's very simple," Woods said. "You always help your friends. Sean is a friend of mine, and like all my friends, you always try to make their life better somehow. Sean has been struggling a bit on the greens this year, and I thought I could offer a little bit of help and insight to how he could change that."

Woods, who is in the best shape to capture the FedEx Cup as the No. 1 seed, could have used some help early in the round. As O'Hair, Harrington and Cink were setting an early pace, Woods was headed in the wrong direction by failing to save par from a bunker on the par-3 sixth, and making bogey on the eighth from the rough to go 1 over.

He was six shots behind at one point, then closed quickly.

"This golf course, you have to be very patient, especially with greens this firm," Woods said. "It's really hard to get the ball close unless you drive the ball in the fairway and have a short iron in."

U.S. Open champion Lucas Glover had a 68, and only three other players managed to break par—Retief Goosen, Steve Marino and Dustin Johnson, who were at 69. Stricker, the No. 2 seed, was among those at 70.

It was hard to believe that a course that was closed Monday and part of Tuesday because of 20 inches of rain over the past week could deliver some of the firmest greens on tour this year. Attribute that to a sub-air system on the greens installed last year, and a hot sun that left players reaching for towels to wipe sweat off their brow.

"The course was playing fairly long, and then the greens are just incredibly firm, probably the most firm we've played all year," O'Hair said. "Maybe The Players Championship is a close second. Kind of ironic since we got so much rain."

O'Hair was sporty from the rough, too. He made his first birdie with a wedge out of the rough on No. 3 that stopped a foot away, then made another birdie at No. 12 under similar circumstances, from the right rough with just enough spin to stop 2 feet from the hole.

Cink narrowly made the 30-man field at No. 26 and the scenarios are too many to count for him to win the FedEx Cup. All he cared about Thursday was breaking par, like so many other players.

"Under par ... the golf course, considering all that rain we had, it's really dried out, and the greens are like bricks," he said. "You have to be very smart coming into the greens to give yourself any kind of aggressive birdies."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

y-New York	97	56	.634	–
Boston	91	61	.599	5 1/2
Tampa Bay	78	74	.513	18 1/2
Toronto	69	84	.451	28
Baltimore	60	92	.395	36 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	82	70	.539	–
Minnesota	79	73	.520	3
Chicago	73	80	.477	9 1/2
Kansas City	63	90	.412	19 1/2
Cleveland	61	91	.401	21

West Division

Los Angeles	90	62	.592	–
Texas	83	69	.546	7
Seattle	80	73	.523	10 1/2
Oakland	73	80	.477	17 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	89	63	.586	–
Atlanta	82	70	.539	7
Florida	82	71	.536	7 1/2
New York	65	88	.425	24 1/2
Washington	52	100	.342	37

Central Division

St. Louis	89	64	.582	–
Chicago	79	73	.520	9 1/2
Milwaukee	75	78	.490	14
Cincinnati	72	81	.471	17
Houston	71	81	.467	17 1/2
Pittsburgh	56	95	.371	32

West Division

Los Angeles	92	61	.601	–
Colorado	86	67	.562	6
San Francisco	82	71	.536	10
San Diego	71	83	.461	21 1/2
Arizona	66	87	.431	26

Yesterday's Games

Cincinnati 4, Pittsburgh 1
L.A. Dodgers 7, Washington 6
Philadelphia 9, Milwaukee 4
San Diego 5, Colorado 4
Chicago Cubs 3, San Francisco 2
Oakland 12, Texas 3
Detroit 6, Cleveland 5
Seattle 5, Toronto 4
Boston 10, Kansas City 3

y-clinched playoff berth

TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

ATLANTA (AP)–Scores Thursday from the Tour Championship, a $7.5 million US PGA Tour event at 7,304-yard, par-70 East Lake Golf Club:

FIRST ROUND

Sean O'Hair	31-35–66
Stewart Cink	31-36–67
Padraig Harrington	31-36–67
Tiger Woods	35-32–67
Lucas Glover	35-33–68
Steve Marino	34-35–69
Retief Goosen	35-34–69
Dustin Johnson	34-35–69
John Senden	36-34–70
Luke Donald	35-35–70
Marc Leishman	36-34–70
Nick Watney	34-36–70
Scott Verplank	31-39–70
Zach Johnson	36-34–70
Steve Stricker	35-35–70
Jerry Kelly	34-37–71
Hunter Mahan	34-37–71
Y.E. Yang	35-36–71
Ernie Els	36-35–71
Jason Dufner	34-37–71
Mike Weir	36-36–72
Angel Cabrera	36-36–72
Brian Gay	36-36–72
Kenny Perry	35-37–72
Jim Furyk	34-38–72
Kevin Na	35-38–73
Phil Mickelson	34-39–73
Heath Slocum	36-37–73
David Toms	36-38–74
Geoff Ogilvy	36-39–75

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

ROTARY STANDINGS

Sonics	5	0
G-Stars	2	0
Sixers	4	1
Runnin' Rebels	3	1
Sparks	3	1
670 Rollers 2	2	2
Rollers 1	2	3
Saints	1	3
Ol'Aces	1	4
Young 670 Rollers 3	0	2
Hi-5	0	3
Celtics	0	4

Chang tops women's Sept. tourney

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Eun Ae Chang beat Terue Ukita in a scorecard tiebreak to win the CNMI Women's Golf Association September Monthly Tournament held a couple of weeks ago.

Chang posted a net score of 73 to top the one-day competition held at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course last Sept. 13. She wound up with the 73 by virtue of her 92 gross (45-47) and 15 handicap.

Ukita also came away with a net 73, but her 50 back nine score was three strokes higher than Chang's 47 and she had to settle for second place. The 24-handicap Ukita fired a 47 in the front nine, giving her 97 for the day.

Grace Wang, meanwhile, came in third with her net 74 built around a gross of 89 (44-45) and handicap of 15.

Noriko Togawa and Lorraine Babauta complete the Top 5 in the September tourney with their identical net 75, while Dolores Yamagishi also wound up with a 75 but had to settle for sixth place.

A total of 17 CWGA members took part in the September tournament. The rest of players, with their net scores in parenthesis, are as follows: Yuko Togawa (78), Shiori Onoue (79), Kyung A. Yang (79), Kyung Ran Seo (79), Masayo Miyamoto (80), Lou Kim (80), Yang Kim (81), Kimiko Abe (84), Bennet Seman (85), Ayako Matsumoto (85), and Terry Tudela, who failed to submit the required scorecard and handicap posting.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of the CNMI Women's Golf Association September Monthly Tournament pose at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort grounds after the competition.

Established in March 2007, CWGA is a nonprofit organization founded to promote, encourage, and introduce women to the sport of golf in the CNMI.

The organization intends to accomplish the following: 1. Promote civic and community interest in golf; 2. Establish and encourage competition and good sportsmanship; 3. Promote and provide social functions of the members and their families; 4. Promote youth golf activities; and 5. To do any or all things necessary and proper to accomplish its purpose and intention.

CWGA also commits its members to abide by a set of values that will further enrich a golfer's performance, attitude, and conduct-adopted form the USA Junior Golf Association.

The set of values members of CWGA are committed to faithfully are as follows: perseverance; sportsmanship; respect; honesty; judgment; responsibility; reliance; courtesy; and sincerity.

For more information about the club's monthly tournaments, call Noriko Togawa at 287-0027, Lou Kim at 483-5255, Terry Tudela at 483-1761, Lorraine Babauta at 287-0621, and Bennet Seman at 483-0126.

Inaugural Inter-Govt Dart League starts with 11 teams

Matches in the Inaugural Inter-Government Dart League began in earnest in different sports bars and watering holes on Saipan last night.

A total of 11 teams have so far confirmed their participation as of presstime yesterday.

First on the list are Public School System Koblerville Assassins and Hopwood-PSS All-In.

Players from Department of Public Works and Commonwealth Utilities Corp. combined forces and have called themselves Trouble Shooters.

Other teams are Mayor's Office Bull Dozers, Coastal Resource Management Office Spartans, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Dart Vaders, CUC Team, and Department of Public Safety Enforces.

Three other teams beat the deadline, which includes Customs Status Quo, PSS-Immigration/CUC Haas Mode, and Northern Marinas College PROA.

Tournament ground rules would be based on the Saipan Electronic Dart Association bylaws and games will be played every Friday night.

Team members come from current government employees, retirees, federal employees, and U.S. Army Reserve.

Each team roster has a minimum of four players and a maximum of eight.

For more information on the recently started league, contact Derron Flores at 664-2503. Those interested can also call 233-4397 and look for Cecil or Warlee. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

WABOL

From Page 28

third place in the medal count with three gold medals.

Tonga (two gold, one silver, 1 bronze), New Caledonia (one gold, four silver, and five bronze), Cook Islands (two silver, one bronze), Samoa (one silver, one bronze), Vanuatu (one silver), and Niue (two bronze) have also won medals in the Mini Games.

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president and CNMI delegation chef de mission Michael A White, meanwhile, said Wabol and triathlon's Joshua Manglona of Tinian finally saw some sunshine Thursday following two days of continuous downpour.

"The rain finally quit about 3:30pm yesterday (Wednesday). It stayed cloudy and chilly for the rest of the day and this morning, but the sun just came out, so we're hoping for good weather the rest of the way. Joshua went on a long training run yesterday, despite the hard rain. I really admire his dedication. Jess needed a good round yesterday, and started off even par after six holes when the rain washed out the round. Unfortunately, the official decision was to start the round over instead of to pick up where the golfers left off. Jess teed off in the first group, at 7:30am this morning. He will play 36 holes today," he said in an e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*.

NMSF

From Page 28

and the only event he failed to set a mark was in the 200m individual medley (2:14.96).

Graf went 4-for-4 in PBTs and tallied one age group mark in the 15 to 16 division. He had PBTs in the 100m freestyle (1:01.30), 200m freestyle (2:12.17), 800m freestyle (9:38.96), and 50 butterfly (30.11). His time in the 800m freestyle is also a new age group mark.

Kimura earned three PBTs in four events. His PBTs came in the 100m freestyle (1:01.86), 200m freestyle (2:13.02), and 800m freestyle (9:40.57). The only time Kimura faltered to nail a PBT was in the 400m freestyle race when he clocked in at 4:47.58.

The four CNMI swimmers also competed in three relays and broke all marks made during the 2009 Junior Pan Pacific Championships in Guam in January. The CNMI quartet timed in at 3:57.83 in the 4x100m freestyle relay, 8:35.74 in the 4x200m freestyle relay, and 4:29.77 in the 4x100m medley relay.

SONICS

From Page 28

a younger team. But I think that whichever team that makes the least mistakes will win it all," said Tudela.

Tudela still could not forget what happened last year when the Sonics won its first five games but the other teams started complaining about an overaged player being fielded.

As a result, the Sonics lost those wins via forfeit and they had to catch up late in the season and finished fourth.

"We made sure there will be no more of that sort this time," Tudela said.

The Junior Nationals went on to take the title but the team is not competing this year.

Tudela said they are not expecting championship yet despite their early sterling performance.

"We'll just take each game one at a time and we are fortunate so far," Tudela said.

He said that the team is looking up to Ajoste's experience.

"We still need to find the right chemistry. Our offense is quite good, more on run and gun because we are a young team. They (Sixers) have more stamina. Our defense is that we change from zone to man-to-man," he said.

In a similar lopsided contest, the Sixers routed slumping Hi-5, 59-30.

The Sixers suffered their lone defeat to the Runnin' Rebels by just a point, 68-69, last Sept. 10.

With the win over Hi-5, the Sixers are now 4-1 and climbed from fourth to second.

Coach Ray Duenas is looking forward to a tight contest against the Sonics on Monday.

"I think we can get it," he said.

The team's main gunner, Ernest Duenas, is a doubtful starter following a knee injury in their game against the Saints earlier in the season.

First Game

Sonics 49 – Ajoste 19, Cadiang 8, Ecalnea 5, D. Jeon 5, Norita 4, Darag 2, Oei 2.

Celtics 33 – T. Taguchi 15, Sablan 7, Nicolas 5, Wesley 4, Villagomez 2

Scoring by halves: 25-12, 49-33.

Second Game

Sixers 59 – Flores 16, J. Duenas 7, Borja 5, R. Duenas 5, Rabauliman 4, Del Rosario 4, Ada 4, Pepito 4, E. Duenas 2, Castro 2, Benavente 2, Agtarap 2, Manaluz 1 C. Duenas 1.

Hi-5 30 – Caro 9, G. Macahito 7, F. Macahito 4, Urbano 3, Tudela 3, Reyes 2, Hemlani 2

Scoring by halves: 26-16, 59-30.

RGA

From Page 28

$300, fourth place 200, and fifth and sixth places $100 apiece.

A $200 reward also awaits lowest gross for men and women, while other competitions such as a skills challenge (holes No. 6 and 15) and closest to the pin (holes No. 3, 8, and 12) will also be held.

Mulligans will be available at $5 a pop, with players only allowed to purchase a maximum of two. No restriction will be used from tee to green.

Donation for the tournament is $80 and its proceeds will be donated to Tanapag Elementary School. Check-in time for the RGA Memorial Classic is set at 6am with tee off scheduled an hour and 30 minutes later at 7:30am.

For more information on tomorrow's September Ace and next month's RGA Memorial Classic, contact Kosam at 483-4506. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Chang tops women's Sept. tourney

Eun Ae Chang beat Terue Ukita in a scorecard tiebreak to win the CNMI Women's Golf Association September Monthly Tournament held a couple of weeks ago. 27

Saipan Tribune
Sports

100 losses and counting: Dodgers top Nationals 7-6

Rafael Furcal hit a go-ahead homer in the eighth inning Thursday as the Los Angeles Dodgers beat Washington 7-6 to hand the Nationals their 100th loss of the season. 25

Wabol tied at 19th after Round 3

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The sun finally made an appearance at the Rarotonga Golf Club yesterday, allowing organizers to push through with the second and third rounds of the golf competition in the 2009 Pacific Mini Games.

The CNMI's Jess Wabol made true his promise to do better after carding a five-over par 77 in the opening round by shooting a three-over par 75 and two-over par 74 in the second and third rounds, respectively.

His 10-over par 226 is good for 19th place in a tie with Fiji's Roneel Prakash (71-75-80) in the 32-man individual golf competition.

Par-busters from host Cook Islands, meanwhile, took over the race for the gold medal with Kirk Tuaiti (71-69-65, 205) and Sonny Karati (72-69-66, 207) occupying first and second place in the leaderboard.

New Caledonia's Jean-Max Ho is in third place (70-67-73, 209), while Samoan teammates Patrick Fepuleai (70-68-72, 210) and Van Wright (72-70-68, 210) are tied for fourth and fifth places.

Day 1 leader Vikrant Chandra dropped to sixth place (66-74, 72, 212) in a tie with Solomon Islands' George Rukabo (72-70-74, 213).

WWW.SPORTINGPULSE.COM

The CNMI's Jess Wabol tees off in the second round of the 2009 Pacific Mini Games golf competition yesterday at the Rarotonga Golf Club.

In the women's side, Charlotte Navarro of New Caledonia leads the way with her eight-over par 218, followed by Elmay Viking of Cook Islands (221) and Gye Oh of Fiji (227).

In team play, Cook Islands leads the men's division with 629 followed by Samoa and New Caledonia with 637 and 650, respectively.

In the women's side, local women par-busters are also in the lead with their 692. Tahiti (711) and Samoa (713) are in second and third.

In the overall medal standings, Tahiti took over the lead with a total of 13 medals—six gold, five silver, and two bronze.

The Francophones augmented the gold medal won by Johanna Sui in the women's high jump the other day by dominating the va'a competition with a haul of five gold medals yesterday.

Manatae Bopp Durant struck gold first by winning both the men's V1 500m and men's V6 500m.

Natalia Evans duplicated Durant's feat by winning two gold medals in the women's V5 1,500m and women's V6 500m. Hinatea Bernardino also took home the gold in the women's V1 500m.

Fiji dropped to second place with four gold, two silver, and three bronze, while Solomon Islands continued its surprise showing by hanging on to

See WABOL on Page 27

Sonics title bid on track, beat Celtics

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Still reeling from the stigma of its monumental collapse last year, the Sonics are back on a rampage.

The Sonics zoomed to a 49-33 win over the Celtics last Thursday night to keep its clean slate in the Saipan Rotary Youth Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

However, coach Jesse Tudela is not about to underestimate the other teams, saying it's still a long way to go. This, despite the Sonics' 5-0 win-loss start.

Tudela told his players not to be overconfident.

"It's hard to say," he said when asked how far the team can go.

He picks the Sixers and G-Stars as two of the strongest teams in the league.

The Sonics' next game will be against the Sixers on Monday.

Tristan Ecalnea said that game would be the real test for the Sonics.

Ecalnea emerged 10th in scoring after averaging 10.75 points per game, while the Sonics team captain Bryan Ajoste was in second place with 15.7 markers a game, as of Sept. 20.

Leading the way in the scoring race is the Celtics main man Tim Taguchi with a 17.67 point per game norm.

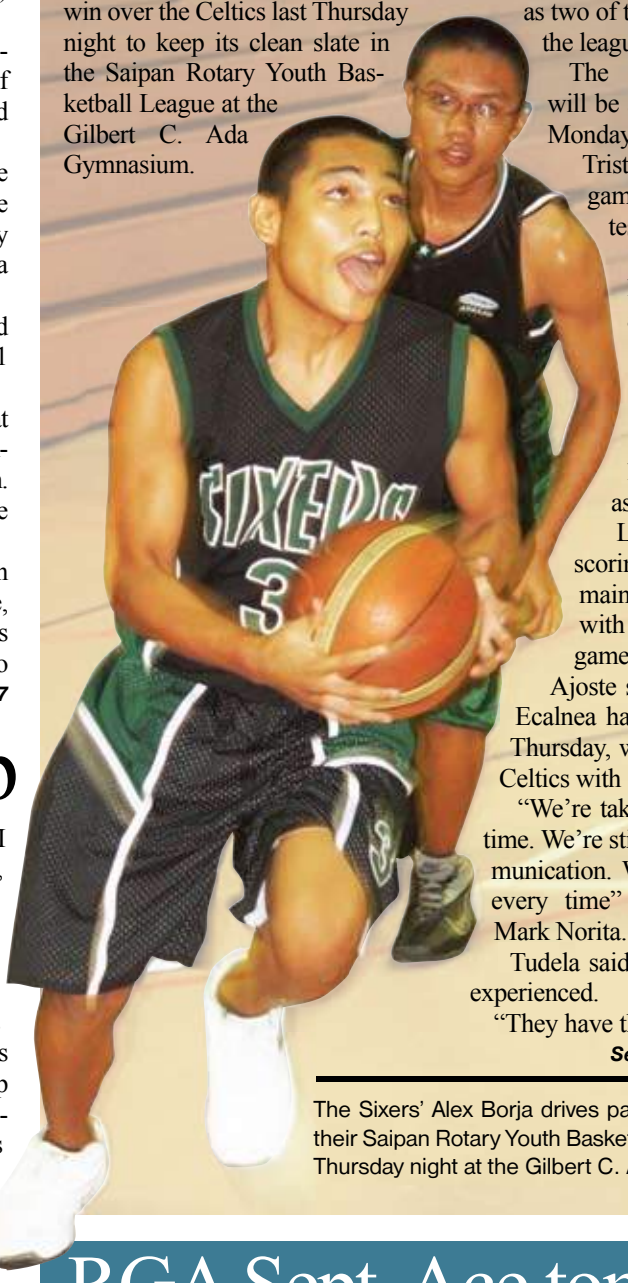
Ajoste scored 19 points and Ecalnea had five in their game Thursday, while Taguchi led the Celtics with 15 markers.

"We're taking it one game at a time. We're still lacking good communication. We need to be focus every time" said Sonics player Mark Norita.

Tudela said the Sixers are more experienced.

"They have the advantage. We are

See SONICS on Page 27



The Sixers' Alex Borja drives past Hi-5's Ezra Caro in their Saipan Rotary Youth Basketball League game last Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.
NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

NMSF thanks sponsors of Rome trip

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Northern Marianas Swimming Federation thanked companies and individuals who helped send the CNMI swimming team to the 13th FINA World Championships held recently in Rome, Italy.

NMSF president Bobby Winkfield said without their help, Rezne Wong, Kai Staal, Cooper Graf, and Shin Kimura wouldn't have had the opportunity to compete in such a high-level and prestigious event and meet in person the swimmers they look up to.

"NMSF would like to thank UMDA, IT&E, Tan Holdings, Dr. Norma Ada, Mrs. Linda Graf, and all of the people that made the trip to the World Swim Championship possible," he said in an e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*.

The Saipan Community School principal also gave kudos to Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura and Saipan Swim Club head coach Mike Villagomez as well as Wong, Staal, Graf, and Kimura "for their many hours of work in preparing to compete."

"I would also like to extend my gratitude Marianas Resort and Spa, owners of the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool, for the use of their pool and to the parents for all that they do for their kids so they are able to swim. Again, the swim federation thank you all," he said.

The CNMI swimmers gave a good account of themselves with numerous records credited to their names in the 13th FINA World Championships.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI swimming team to the 13th FINA World Championships in Rome, Italy. From left, Cooper Graf, Shin Kimura, Kai Staal, and Rezne Wong. At back is the team's head coach Hiro Kimura.

Of the 20 events the four CNMI swimmers competed in, Wong, Staal, Cooper, and Kimura posted four CNMI national records, 18 personal best times, and eight age group marks.

Staal joined four individual races and made records in all events. His 25.06 seconds in he 50m freestyle is a new CNMI National and age group marks (15 to 16 age group). The 15-year-old swimmer's three other age group records are 31.90 seconds in the 50m breaststroke, 28.04 seconds in the 50 butterfly, and 29.75 seconds in the 50m backstroke.

Wong competed in five events and submitted four personal best times, three age group marks, and three CNMI National records. His 31.62 seconds in the 50m breaststroke is a PBT, age group mark, and CNMI record. He did the same in the 100m (1:08.79) and 200m breaststroke (2:26.83) swims. The 18-year-old Wong had another PBT in the 50m freestyle (25.34 seconds)

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RGA Sept. Ace tomorrow

The Refaluwasch Golf Association will tee off for its September Ace tomorrow, Sept. 27, at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

Score to beat is the net 66 "Jumping" Joe Saures fired during the club's qualifying tournament held last Sept. 13 at the same Agringan Point golf course.

RGA president Jordon Kosam said show time for the September Ace is 11am with tee time and hour later at 12pm.

If nobody tops Saures' 66, he will claim September Ace and qualify for the yearend RGA Club Championship set for December.

Kosam also reminded RGA monthly champions who have aspirations to play in the Club Championship, that they need to play in at least six rounds of either the club's qualifiers or monthly aces to be eligible for the yearend competition.

In related news, the 2009 RGA Memorial Classic will be held on Oct. 24 at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

The tournament will adopt a double peoria format with the champion pocketing $500. Aside from the champion winning a cash prize, the runner-up will get $400, third place

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